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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Legislators To Convene in Support of Iraq

LD2801191291 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] It has been confirmed in Algiers that an urgent meeting of Arab legislators will be held soon, but there is not yet any agreement on the precise date for this meeting. Mr. Belkhadem, the speaker of the National Assembly was contacted by Richida Touazi:

[Begin recording] [Belkhadem] Yes, I can confirm the meeting, but not the date, because the date has yet to be fixed. There are difficulties with making contact, and the meeting requested by Algeria should have been held in January. Unfortunately, the acting president of the Union of Arab Parliaments, who is the speaker of the United Arab Emirates Parliament, did not think he had to send invitations to the legislatures belonging to the Union, and as a result it was impossible to hold the meeting in January. We are waiting for February to hold this meeting within the framework of an ordinary session.

[Touazi] What possible role could the legislators play?

[Belkhadem] First of all, we must show our support for Iraq, and attempt to tackle the different governments in our capacity as parliamentarians in order either to give concrete form to their support for Iraq or to modify their position in order not to aid the coalition, which is waging an unjust war against Iraq.

[Touazi] And how do you assess the Iranian peace plan sent to the legislators?

[Belkhadem] It is a plan that is worthy of interest, which deserves to be examined, but I do not believe that the Westerners who have conceived, drawn up, and organized a plan that will have worldwide implications will take an interest in that plan now. We are sparing no effort to put an end to this unjust war and preserve Iraq's military-industrial potential.

[Touazi] If you will, Mr. Belkhadem, we will return to Algiers to ask you if there is a specific program for this extraordinary session of the APN [People's National Assembly] devoted to the Gulf.

[Belkhadem] Probably around 15 or 16 February.

[Touazi] Is there a specific plan, is there a specific direction to the session?

[Belkhadem] Yes. First of all we are going to examine the developments in the situation and attempt at least to bring the member countries of the military coalition to review their position in order to put an end to this genocide and at the same time not to have a double-edged concept of international law. Then, to bring about an international conference on the Middle East and the Palestinian problem in particular. [end recording]

Islamic Affairs

Iran Urged To Adopt Pro-Iraqi Stand

LD2501211191 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] In Algeria, the Islamic Call League has once again condemned the Western attack against Iraq under the pretext of liberating Kuwait. In its communique which was handed to APS, it condemned the legislating edicts that made it permissible for the forces of evil and tyranny to infringe upon the sanctities and lands of Muslims and suggested that an international Islamic force should be put in place until security and stability are reestablished.

The Islamic Call League considers that the aim of the West is not to liberate Kuwait but to destroy Iraq's military power to protect the security of Israel.

The Association for Guidance and Reform has for its part today handed out a communique to the Iranian Embassy in Algiers in which it calls on the Iranian people, leaders, and scholars to adopt honorable stances appropriate for repelling the new raid against the Islamic world through standing by the side of the Iraqi Islamic people, giving material and moral assistance, and making moves on the international and Islamic levels to stop the aggression and establish peace.

The communique of the Association for Guidance and Reform said the Islamic Republic of Iran bears the historical responsibility of repelling aggression and supporting Islam.

Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Sharif: PLO Still Making Peace Efforts

LD2801194191 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has affirmed that the PLO is still making efforts to end the destructive war in the Gulf.

In a statement distributed in Tunis today, Abu-Sharif said that the United States is waging a devastating war against Iraq for objectives that have nothing to do with Kuwait, and that the United States is aiming to destroy Iraq's infrastructure.

Abu-Sharif warned against the continuation of the war, noting that the PLO has warned of the castrophes that would result from a coalition war in the Gulf. He said: We still call for an end to this aggressive war against Iraq before it is too late.

Hawatimah Calls for Action Against Israel

LD2801132791 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has issued a statement calling on the masses of the intifadah to break the Israeli occupation authorities' curfew regulations, disrupt daily life, and paralyze the Zionist economy in order to refute the occupation administration's claims about its ability to impose a new fait accompli on the intifadah.

The DFLP's secretary general, Nayif Hawatimah, has given a lengthy exclusive interview to Algerian national radio in which he dealt with the current situation in the Middle East in light of the U.S.-Western aggression on the Middle East and on the Iraqi people. He called on the Palestine resisance groups in particular to escalate the fedayeen operations against the occupation positions. Here is Hawatimah:

[Begin Hawatimah recording] I call upon all PLO detachments to join the national Lebanese forces in the carrying out of fedayeen operations against the Zionist occupation forces in southern Lebanon so that we can divert the largest possible power of the Israeli Army away from the battlefront with Iraq.

From here too, I call on all PLO detachments, particularly those which have not fired a single bullet for long months against the occupation forces, to join the in the fedayeen operations in southern Lebanon and in the heart of Israel so that we prevent the Israeli forces from having a free hand and thereby move across the occupied Palestinian territory into the Jordanian territory and after that into Iraqi territory.

After that I say that the war will be a long one. Its course cannot be decided in a matter of days. Iraq's steadfastness, the development of the intifadah, the fedayeen operations from southern Lebanon, the steadfastness of the brave Jordanian people, and the Arab activities—which should move from demonstrations to the exertion of pressure on their governments to offer tangible support to Iraq, the intifadah, and Jordan, and to call upon the Arab countries of the east forces in the Arabian peninsula and the Gulf to withdraw their forces. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Foresees Further War Front

LD2901113291 Algiers APS in English 1042 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 29/1/91 (APS)—Secretary General of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Nayif Hawatimah, was interview Monday by APS. In this interview he tackled the last developments of the Gulf war.

Hawatimah insisted on the links between the Gulf crisis and other questions that are still in abeyance in the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian question. He also renewed the urgent call to combine all sincere efforts exerted by more than a party to stop agression mainly aimed at destroying Iraq's economic and military capabilities before getting hold of oil resources in that region.

As for of Algero-Palestinian efforts, said Hawatimah, they are also centered upon mobilizing international and states public opinion in a world front as large as possible to stop aggression against Iraq, boost negotiations toward a balanced political solution to the Gulf crisis and Middle East conflict.

Speaking about new developments, two weeks after the launching of military agression against Iraq, Hawatimah stated the new element is that speaking war has failed, the war will last a long time. Another new element is expected within the next days, added Hawatimah. It concerns the opening of move than one land front besides Iraq among which there are the Turkish front and Israel's role in the allied forces' land offensive.

Therefore Jordan is exposed to potential occupation from the part of Israel. Hawatimah considered that Arab states that categorically refuse Israeli expansionism, should increasingly and soon support the Palestinian intifadah and Jordan.

At material level, said Hawatimah, Arab states are able to provide food medicines and other assistance to Iraq through Iraqi and Jordanian territories. Hence, they could loose the economic blockade aimed, through the Security Council resolution's overtaking, at totally anihilating Iraq.

Hawatimah also handled expansionist goals of Israel against Jordanian territories. He warned that Israel engagement in war will engender a deep change of all Middle East card if Arab states do nothing to thwart Israeli expansionism and stop aggression against Iraq. As for the Security Council's attitude vis a vis the Gulf crisis and other questions in that region, Hawatimah pointed out that Washington currently exploits very favourable a situation to serve its mere selfish interests.

Organizations Questioned on Support for Iraq

PM2801120591 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 24 Jan 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Do You Know"]

[Text] Do you know that an Arab capital opposed to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait requested the leaderships of three Palestinian organizations based there to provide explanations for the reasons for their encouragement to Saddam Husayn not to withdraw from Kuwait, and that only one of these organizations promised to change its position after it ascertained Saddam Husayn's false allegations?

Algeria

Ghazali Tells Iran Envoy U.S. 'Crushing' Islam

LD2901074991 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 29 Jan (IRNA)—The latest developments in the Persian Gulf war were discussed in a meeting of Iran's ambassador to Algiers Javed Qorbanoghlu and Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali here Monday.

The Algerian minister said that the U.S. did not intend to liberate Kuwait and was after crushing the power of Islam. He stressed that Iran and Algeria must make efforts to stop the war and reduce its damage.

Ghazali criticized the Security Council in connection with the Persian Gulf war and called for initiation of efforts by the non-aligned countries.

Qorbanoghlu said that Iran is concerned about the Iraqi nation and has made efforts to stop the war.

Fundamentalist Leader on Military Training

LD2701024591 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] official spokesman held a news conference this afternoon in which he dwelled, in particular, on the difficult period facing the Islamic nation, recalling the president of the republic's statement on the FIS request to organize military training for the youth. Mr. Abassi Madani explains to our colleague Nassira Bouzid the FIS position on this matter:

[Begin Abassi recording] In order to face up to the events. Proceeding from this we must, we must face up to events, the FIS put forward, together with more than 1 million people who were present in the square, a request that they should open barracks for us—those barracks which are the property of the People's National Army—so our sons will be trained, maybe even our daughters, to defend themselves and defend their homeland. The answer was that there was no need for such training for a simple reason: If circumstances warrant a confrontation we have 1 million reservists. Is 1 million enough? Is it right that 1 million people should have the right to be trained and 20 million or 23 million have no such right, all the sons of Algeria have the right to exercise such a right. Military service is being given to people at universities and secondary schools, so what has the regime got to lose if it really wants to protect the country's sovereignty unless it is afraid of them? How can we be afraid of our people and not afraid of our enemies? Regrettably however, we were astonished by their negative answer. And a negative answer was not enough for them; they issued a warning and a threat.

The second point is that the country needs harmony and cooperation, particularly at the level of the economic apparatus. We must open spheres for more production, mobilize the people for production; we must train ourselves to reduce our consumption and put an end to squandering, we must put more emphasis on necessary commodities; we must produce them and store them so that we will not find ourselves suddenly faced with the catastrophe of a boycott, a blockade, or merely scarcity of commodities brought about by this war.

The war might develop; its development is a possibility. Yes of course we should seek peace, but we should also prepare ourselves for war. It is not wise at all for us to be seeking only one goal: Seeking peace and not preparing ourselves for war. Seeking peace without making preparations for war is tantamount to a surrender. [end recording]

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Comments on Talks With U.S. Officials

NC2901072791 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to U.S. President George Bush today. The message deals with the latest developments in the Gulf region from both the military and political aspects, in addition to the situation in the Middle East and relations between Egypt and the United States.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid held a wide-ranging meeting with Secretary of State James Baker in Washington last evening. The meeting was attended by the Egyptian ambassador in Washington. The talks dealt with the Gulf war and related issues, as well as the war's possible future effects on the Middle East in general. The talks also touched on the scope of cooperation between Egypt and the United States.

Speaking to reporters following his talks with James Baker, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asserted that the existing international alliance on the situation in the Gulf seeks to implement the UN Security Council resolutions on the crisis. He noted that UN Security Council Resolution 678 legalized the use of all available methods to bring about Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. He stressed that Egypt will continue to work to implement the UN Security Council resolutions in this connection.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid noted that information supplied by the U.S. Government confirms that civilians are not being used as targets in military operations. He believes that the military operations are not being mounted to attack civilians in Iraq and that they are aimed primarily at the liberation of Kuwait.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that Egypt has adopted a clear-cut stand since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August. He said Egypt has condemned and still condemns the aggression against Kuwait and that it demanded and still demands that the Iraqi troops be

withdrawn and legitimacy be restored to Kuwait. He reiterated that this will continue to be Egypt's position.

Responding to a question on how Egypt would act if Saddam Husayn pulls out of Kuwait, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: Let him withdraw first and put an end to what is happening, because it is the Iraqi president who is responsible for the present situation. He referred in that context to President Mubarak's repeated appeals to the Iraqi president to protect Iraq, its people and army, against what is presently going on.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid noted that Egypt could not have done more than it has already done. He described his talks with James Baker as productive, adding that they exchanged views on the current situation. He noted that the two countries share the same view on the need to see Kuwait liberated.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid met also with Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady last evening. The meeting focused on financial assistance to the countries affected by the Gulf crisis.

Prime Minister Sidqi Reviews Foreign Policy

NC2801135691 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0914 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Government policy statement read by Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi at the People's Assembly Hall in Cairo—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] I will now move on to the third part of my statement which relates to foreign policy. The past year was replete with highly important and dangerous international and Arab events and developments. Egypt dealt with these events in a civilized manner and with policies based on unequivocal principles. Egypt sought to intensify cooperation with various Arab, African, Islamic, nonaligned, and East and West European countries, and with the United States and the Soviet Union. Egypt made successful efforts to bolster Arab solidarity in restoring diplomatic relations with all fraternal Arab countries. Egypt restored ties with Lebanon and Syria; fraternal ties with Libya were normalized. Egypt also worked to place this solidarity in the correct context. This was achieved with the issuance of a unanimous resolution of the Arab League Council on 11 March 1990 to return the Arab League to its permanent headquarters in Cairo. This resolution took effect as of December.

Within the framework of Arab cooperation, major achievements were attained during the past year. Perhaps the most outstanding of these achievements was deepening and strengthening cooperation with Syria and Libya. Ten cooperation agreements in various spheres were signed with Libya on 4 December 1990. Your dignified assembly ratified several of these agreements. The joint higher Egyptian-Syrian Committee held its first session in Cairo between 10 and 12 December. Six cooperation agreements were signed with Syria; these will be submitted to you. I believe that these agreements have already been sent to your dignified assembly. During the meetings of the Egyptian-Saudi Committee, it was agreed to follow up on the implementation of agreements reached in previous meetings and to continue to explore new horizons for further cooperation.

In view of the pioneering role being assumed by Egypt in the Islamic world, Egyptian diplomacy has been eager to strengthen relations with the Islamic countries. Between 31 July and 4 August 1990, Cairo hosted the Islamic Conference Organization's Foreign Ministers Conference in which all member states participated.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, Egypt has continued to expend efforts and attention on the Arabs' first cause, the Palestinian question. We joined efforts with all parties and with Arab brothers in bilateral talks and in international forums in order to maintain the momentum to which we have contributed and bolster the Palestinian people's struggle and their blessed intifadah. Egypt will always remain faithful and supportive of this legitimate struggle until our Arab hope is achieved and the fraternal Palestinian people regain their right to determine their future despite all developments.

Within the African context, our efforts have continued to reinforce cooperation with all African countries and to follow up on the efforts made by the president during his chairmanship of the OAU to find appropriate and peaceful solutions to the problems facing the African countries, whether problems of a bilateral or common nature, such as the problems of debts and development.

In appreciation of Egypt's role in Africa, Alexandria was chosen as the headquarters of the International French University to serve the objectives of development in Africa. This university was inaugurated by the president in the presence of a number of African leaders and the French president in November 1990.

As we monitor the swift and successive developments in the international arena, particularly events in Europe—Germany was reunited; East European countries moved toward a free economy and party pluralism; rapprochement between what was called the East and West blocs; and the historical results and the documents that were signed in Paris during the Conference on European Security and Cooperation as a result of this rapprochement—we, on one hand, welcome these positive developments. At the same time, we consult with the rest of the developing countries and the members of the Nonaligned Movement to contribute to formulating the new international order and to work so that the confrontation will not end without taking into consideration the interests of the developing and nonaligned countries.

In this regard, Egypt endeavored within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement to highlight the importance of the issues of debts and development. The recent nonaligned summit in Belgrade in September 1989 endorsed the initiative for Egypt, India, Senegal, Venezuela, and Yugoslavia to activate the dialogue between

the North and South. Egyptian diplomacy worked to activate Arab-European dialogue through effective participation in the Paris meeting in December 1989 in which all the foreign ministers of the Arab countries and the EC countries took part.

Egypt also participated in the (?third) conference of the foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries of the Mediterranean in June 1990. A declaration was issued on the horizons of a comprehensive dialogue on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean. During December 1990, Cairo hosted a meeting of senior officials in charge of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean. In addition to Egypt, Algeria, Yugoslavia, Malta, Italy, France, Spain, and Portugal participated in this meeting.

Our activities in the field of international cooperation within a bilateral framework extended to Asian countries, particularly Japan, and to European countries—East and West—especially the EC. Our activities also extended to multilateral cooperation through international organizations. I would like to praise every effort made in this regard to achieve the interests of our masses. The response to our efforts was out of appreciation for the seriousness of our positions and policy. We fully value every assistance given to Egypt and all cooperation designed to achieve the common interests of Egypt and other friendly countries.

Regarding relations between Egypt on the one hand and the United States of America and the Soviet Union on the other, I can state that relations are sound and developing. The president visited Moscow in May 1990. The visit underscored the desire of the two countries to strengthen political, economic, and technical relations. The Gulf crisis and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait have led to further cooperation and coordination between Egypt and those two countries, particularly the United States, with a view to solving the crisis and establishing international legitimacy and stability in the area.

We received the U.S. President in Cairo where he held intensive consultations with the president as part of the coordination to seek a suitable settlement of the Gulf crisis.

Since this sad invasion took place on 2 August 1990, our Arab and Islamic nation has been living through a heartrending ordeal. The aggression was carried out by a fraternal state, and the victim of treachery was a fraternal Arab state. In his speech at the historic meeting of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council last Thursday, 24 January 1991, his excellency the president gave a complete and comprehensive explanation of the situation, with its background and all its Arab and international dimensions. This historic statement was in addition to the hard and assidious efforts that the president has made since Iraq began to raise the issue of disagreement with Kuwait during the Arab foreign ministers' meetings in July 1990. As a result of these efforts, Iraq and Kuwait were brought together in Jeddah on 31 July 1990 in an attempt, which was supposed to continue, to reach an understanding to end the differences between the brothers as dictated by the spirit of Arab solidarity and Islamic tolerance. However, the treachery and the aggression had already been planned, and thus the shock took place, a shock that is still causing reverberations in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

We made strenuous efforts on all levels and in all forums. The Arab summit conference, the foreign ministers of the Islamic states, and the UN Security Council issued resolutions condemning the aggression and calling for unconditional withdrawal, restoration of legitimacy, and support for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in exercising its legitimate right to take all the necessary measures to defend itself. In view of Iraq's arrogance and refusal to submit to reason and in view of the Iraqi leadership's continued attempts to push matters to the verge of the abyss, the leadership of noble Egypt, in fulfillment of its Arab and international commitments under the Joint Arab Defense Treaty—which represents a legal commitment that must be fulfilled—and its commitment under the UN Charter, made the decision to send military units to assist fraternal Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in the legitimate defense of their security against any possible aggression.

With your permission, I proudly salute the valiant sons of Egypt, our troops [applause] who are standing alongside their brother Arab and Islamic forces in defense of right and legitimacy. Greetings to the masses of our people, who since the first day have denounced the aggression, supported the earnest Egyptian position, realized the magnitude of the catastrophe on our Arab and Islamic nation, and understood the maneuvers aimed at reshuffling the cards, trading in the cherished Palestinian cause, and using the religion of tolerance and straightforwardness to justify mistaken personal greed and ambition.

Despite all our concerns in this respect, the righteous Arab souls and blood and the interests of the Arab and Islamic peoples, especially the interests of the fraternal Palestinian people and the interests of the fraternal Iraqi people themselves, make it inevitable for us to continue urging the Iraqi leadership to comply with the unanimous international call for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government to that honest country. We believe that this is the only way to stop further bloodshed and prevent the expected mass destruction. This will also allow all of us to move toward construction and development and toward Arab solidarity. Will right, justice, and logic prevail over stubbornness and aggression? I sincerely hope so.

The extent of damage suffered by several countries as a result of the invasion is no secret. For Egypt, the damage was huge. The government has kept the people constantly informed, and we held intensive contacts with many fraternal and friendly countries and world organizations to explain our losses. As a result of the Iraqi invasion, large numbers of our sons and citizens in

Kuwait and Iraq were forced to return to the homeland, leaving behind their homes, source of livelihood, businesses, and savings. Government organs made immense efforts to facilitate their return, and this was appreciated by the entire world. Over a short period of time, care and means of transportation and livelihood had been provided to 396,000 citizens before they finally arrived in their residences in Egypt. Concerning the financial damage, I have already explained it to you. [passage omitted]

Iraq Said To Ask For Facilities To Hit Israel

PM2801140591 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Jan 91 p1

['Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar report: "Saddam Asks Iran To Mediate With Syria To Receive Iraqi Forces To Attack Israel"]

[Text] Last Sunday Iraqi President Saddam Husayn sent his Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to Tehran on an urgent mission that lasted five hours. During the visit, 'Aziz met with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and handed him a message from Saddam Husayn to Iranian President Rafsanjani on the current situation in the Gulf. 'Aziz also asked Iran to intercede to persuade Syria to take a neutral stand in the current confrontation between Iraq and the allied forces.

AL-WAFD has learned that Baghdad asked Tehran to try to persuade the Syrian authorities to allow Iraq to launch military operations against Israel across the Syrian borders to expand the war against Israel.

AL-WAFD has also learned that this week Jordan rejected an Iraqi request for facilities for special Iraqi forces to mount military operations across Jordan against Israeli targets and installations.

LDP Team Arrives in Cairo To Prepare Rescue Efforts

OW2701133391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1232 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, Jan 27 (KYODO)—A team of officials from Japan's Ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) arrived in Cairo on Sunday to prepare for a government plan to evacuate on Japanese military aircraft Asian refugees fleeing from the Persian Gulf war.

The delegation, led by former Labor Minister Toshio Yamaguchi, plans to travel to Syria and Jordan after observing the evacuation from Cairo of the first group of Vietnamese refugees, delegation officials said.

The Japanese Government decided Friday to use up to four Air Self-Defense Force C-130 transport planes to shuttle war refugees trapped in Syria and Jordan to Cairo.

Japanese airlines are to pick them up in the Egyptian capital and transport them to their home countries.

About 580 Vietnamese refugees were scheduled to arrive in al-'Aqabah on the Gulf of 'Aqabah coast Sunday evening from a camp near the Jordanian capital of Amman, Japanese Embassy officials said.

They will go to Nuwaybi on the Egyptian side of the coast by ferry and travel on to Cairo by bus, they said. Their arrival was expected early Monday.

An estimated 4,000 war refugees were stranded in Jordan as of Tuesday, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Assails Turkish Stand on War

LD2801205591 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Interview with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by unidentified Turkish press correspondents inside al-Qadhdhafi's tent in Tripoli; date not given; questions translated into Arabic—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] The first question, brother leader: We would like to have your assessment of Turkey's position vis-a-vis the Gulf war.

[al-Qadhdhafi] We consider that Turkey has committed a grave mistake in all respects; in regard to world peace, in regard to her relations with the Arab nation, in respect of her relations with Islam, and in respect of her national interest as a whole. Turkey has caused great harm in all of these matters. By opening a front outside the Arab region, Turkey has widened the circle of the war and this is the beginning of the collapse of world peace. All our efforts are geared toward stopping the war, and particularly to limit the military operations. Demonstrations are staged all over the world against the bombardment of Iraq. We are doing our best to keep the operation, at least, within the boundaries of Kuwait. Turkey's moving the war outside the Arab area threatens world peace. This has led Iranian revolutionaries to demand Iran's entry into the war on Iraq's side as long as Turkey has entered the war on the side of the allied forces.

There is a strong drive in Iran presently to enter the war, while talk is reported on the possibility of using Cyprus in the war after using Turkey. Therefore, consultations have begun between the Soviet Union and China, especially after the start of operations on the borders of the Soviet Union and this means the beginning of World War III.

I invite the world to begin a fresh study of World War I and World War II. I personally read these days and every day books about World War I and World War II, although I had studied them in the military academy and in the university, yet I now review them. I invite the leaders of the world to re-read [about] those two wars.

What is the meaning of Turkey's move to destroy her interests with the Arab nation? She will lose. The West is not a true ally of the Turkish people. We could say the West is an arch friend [of the Turkish people]; in other words it is friendly, but a foe in reality.

It was expected Turkey would leave NATO after its involvement in this war in the Arab and Islamic area and following the demise of the eastern bloc which no longer constituted a threat to Turkey. Consequently there was no justification left for Turkey to remain in NATO. We were expecting this to happen during this crisis: namely for Turkey to withdraw from NATO and to close foreign bases in Turkey immediately. Turkey is a neighbor of the Soviet Union. Her security is connected with the Soviet Union and not with the United States. She could establish good relations with the Soviet Union and withdraw from NATO. Turkey's relations are with the Arab countries and with the Soviet Union. How can she antagonize both and guarantee her interests?

The president of Turkey is my friend and I led him in prayers when he paid us a visit in Tripoli. I considered that as a sacred bond. However, When I heard that Turkey might be used in the war I made a statement and said that this tune must be silenced immediately. I told the U.S. CNN that Turkey is beating the drums of war and these drums must be silenced.

My friend Ozal phoned me the same night. I told him it is true you are beating the drums of war and hinting about the use of Turkish territory in the war—this will expand the war and we are against this expansion. The Turkish president said there are Arab countries used by U.S. forces such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Qatar. I told him those are countries involved in the war with Iraq, but Turkey is not involved in it against Iraq. I pointed out that Turkey's involvement in the war threatens her interests with her Arab brothers, expands the circle of the war, and endangers peace. Regrettably, Turkey was used in the war as if she had not been in or learned a lesson from World War I and World War II.

Concerning her present interests, I am certain that the Libyan people will liquidate the Turkish interests, regrettably. As the world is punishing Iraq for her occupation of Kuwait, any state expanding the war must be punished also.

[Correspondent] The brother leader refers to Turkey's interests in the Jamahiriyah: Does he mean economic relations?

[al-Qadhdhafi] All [Libyan-Turkish] relations will be harmed including economic relations. I say that with regret. Those responsible for destroying these interests are the Turkish Government.

[Correspondent] There are numerous Turkish companies working in the Jamahiriyah, many of them work in the construction sector. They have not received their dues for a long time. Is this situation connected with the Gulf crisis?

[al-Qadhdhafi] I have already answered this question.

[Correspondent] If Israel responds to the Iraqi attacks on Israel, what will be the position of the Jamahiriyah?

[al-Qadhdhafi] First, in our view this battle is not a battle for the liberation of Palestine. We believe that Palestine will be liberated by the Palestinians and not by Iraq. Furthermore, we have not been consulted by anybody about all that has happened.

[Correspondent] Is the brother leader still engaged in his efforts and numerous attempts to stop the war and save world peace?

[al-Qadhdhafi] What Turkey is doing now undermines our efforts.

[Correspondent] Turkey's stand vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis and the crisis of the current war in the area will harm Arab-Turkish relations while we see a large number of Arab countries are involved in the crisis as against other Arab countries. What does harming Arab-Turkish relations mean in this context? Would you kindly elaborate more on this point?

[al-Qadhdhafi] First, these are settling Arab-Arab scores—the problem is basically Arab, and Turkey has no right to force herself into this problem. The serious thing now is the fact that Turkish territories are being used as a new front and Turkey is not sending volunteers of symbolic forces to fight.

[Correspondent] There is talk about the international order after the war or after the end of the current crisis. What would you expect the state of the Middle East and the role of Turkey in the new international order to be, brother leader?

[al-Qadhdhafi] By her current subordination to the West, Turkey will be a tool for the implementation of the Western scheme. The new scheme will be defined according to the outcome of the battles. What was in the West's thinking more than a week ago has undoubtedly changed after a week of fighting. They have realized now by themselves that they cannot impose their perceptions on the world as easily as they wish. They have seen by themselves after a week—confronting only one state of the Third World. This state is also besieged. What would be the case if they were a group of states and not besieged? What would be their position?

If we consider the war to be between the United States and Iraq it means the United States has been defeated after a week. The plan about which they were talking before the war has changed. Even if they triumphed later, however, their thinking has changed now. Even if they prove victorious they will not be the same as they were before the war.

[Correspondent] What are the leader's proposals in regard to solving the crisis and for the post-war period?

[al-Qadhdhafi] My proposals in regard to the Arabs is to establish Arab unity so that the Kuwait-Iraq problem will end and the Arab states [become] one state. The foreign forces are to be withdrawn with everyone concerning himself with his boundaries and having nothing to do with the others. Our stand is firm; we are opposed to the occupation of Kuwait.

[Correspondent] The brother leader pointed out that the fundamental solution to the Kuwait crisis is Arab unity. However, does Arab unity not face a lot of problems at present?

[al-Qadhdhafi] The situation we are presently in has created a new mentality.

[Correspondent] Morocco is a member of the Arab Maghreb Union and she has a number of troops with the allies in the region, how do you see that?

[al-Qadhdhafi] It is a presence of no meaning. It came as a hasty measure at the beginning of the crisis. And all those who were involved regret that.

[Correspondent] The ground clashes have not begun yet, and when they begin will the Arab forces deployed in the area participate in them, and if they do, what would your stand be?

[al-Qadhdhafi] Even those Arab countries which sent troops have rejected the use of their territories as springboards against Iraq. I am sorry to say that I have lost hope in the Turkish Government despite the fact that our friend Ozal is leading it. I would say to the Turkish people that your government has destroyed your interests with your brothers. Animosity and hatred will be created for future generations. Iraqi women and children are being killed and their houses being destroyed by the aircraft flying from Turkey.

I have hope in the Turkish people. I ask the Turkish people to march toward these bases and close them immediately, and get Turkey out of NATO immediately and to affirm their strong fraternal relations through dialogue with the Arabs and with the Soviet Union.

I call on the Turkish people as from the publication of this interview [in the Turkish press] to start positive moves by demonstrations, civil disobedience, and revolutionary action to achieve this demand.

I find myself obliged to address this appeal to the fraternal Turkish people to prevent the eruption of World War III, and to save international peace and for Turkey's interests and her future.

I am sorry to say this during the rule of my brother and friend [Turgat] Ozal. We have supported him and stood by him until he assumed power. His stand should have not been like this later on. Thank you.

Libya Will Lose $405 Million A Month Because of War

LD2501213491 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Oil prices in international markets have hit rock bottom because efforts aiming at securing an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and an end to the Gulf war have failed. Economic reports, published in Vienna today, asserted that the Gulf war, which is in its 9th day, has had negative effects on oil prices and badly harmed oil producing countries, whose oil revenues have noticeably declined, a matter that will have a direct effect on the progress of their development programs.

In this respect the Great Jamahiriyah faces a monthly loss of $405 million because of the Gulf war's effects on prices. The loss will reach $5 billion annually if this war continues.

UN Envoy Discusses Statement on Security Council

LD2501195691 Tripoli JANA in English 1632 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] New York, 25 Jan (JANA)—The permanent envoy of Great Jamahiriyah to the United Nations indicated that the initiative from the Arab Maghreb Union to call the U.N. Security Council to convene was aimed at giving a new chance for peace.

In a statement to journalists yesterday evening in New York, he said "The U.N. Security Council must provide a new opportunity for peace". At the same time he emphasized the position of the Arab Maghreb Union in demanding Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. He pointed out that this move came according to the U.N. Charter and to the task of the U.N. Security [Council] in establishing international security and peace.

He added that such move came to implement the resolutions taken by the Foreign Ministers Council of the Arab Maghreb Union which convened in Tripoli recently.

Morocco

Government Approves 'Day of Solidarity' With Iraq

LD2701220891 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] The Ministry of Information has issued the following statement:

Following the call made by some trade unionist organizations—including the Moroccan Labor Union at the level of Mohammedia and Casablanca, the General Union of Moroccan Workers, the Confederation of Democratic Trade Unions and the National Trade Union for Higher Education on the national level—for a work stoppage on Monday, 28 January 1991, His Majesty's Government calls on citizens to ensure that this

day of solidarity with the Iraqi people should be observed in an atmosphere of respect, discipline, and responsibility.

Socialist Union Party Voices Support

LD2801140491 Rabat MAP in English 1336 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Rabat, Jan 28 (MAP)—The Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP-Opposition) invited the government to open lists for volunteers and prohibit the use of Moroccan territory by countries taking part in the aggression against Iraq.

In a communique released by the party's central committee, the USFP calls for access to radio and television for all parties, unions and cultural organisations to voice their support to the Iraqi people and said the stance expressed by the prime minister before the parliament and expounded daily by official media does not relate to the deeply felt sentiments of the Moroccan people.

The USFP Central Committee calls for the pull-out of Moroccan troops from Saudi territory, backs the solidarity general strike of Monday, and urges the government to ship foodstuffs and sanitary aid to the aggressed but adamant Iraqi people. The strike and fasting of Jan 28 are meant to spur the Arab and Muslim masses into further pressures for a halt of aggression and recourse to peaceful means to solve all Mideast problems, reads the release.

The opposition party says it backs any Arab or international move meant to stop the aggression and restore peace and urges UN to shoulder its responsibilty in protecting Iraq by endeavouring for the immediate end of aggression and implementation of all UN resolutions pertaining to the Mideast crisis.

UNESCO is also required to take immediate action to preserve historic and holy sites in Iraq and humanitarian and charity organizations are asked to protect children, elderly, and civilians at large from the deluge of ceaseless bombing.

Denial of U.S. Base Near Rabat Reported

LD2801135191 Rabat MAP in English 1238 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Rabat, 28 Jan (MAP)—An official Moroccan source categorically denied the information broadcast Thursday by the Algerian TV alleging existence of an Amercian base in Morocco, at Sidi Slimane (50 km north of Rabat).

The allegation is entirely groundless and constitutes a ludicrous error of the Algerian TV, the source said.

The source recalls talks on evacuation of American bases in Morocco started in 1957 in the wake of the country's independence and were crowned with success in December 22, 1959 when the late King Mohammed V and President Eisenhower agreed to evacuate the U.S. bases in Morocco. The last U.S. troops left Morocco in September 1963, the source said.

King Hassan II Receives PLO's 'Arafat in Rabat

LD2601165191 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, flanked by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Side Moulay Mohammed and His Royal Highness Moualay Rachid, received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, at the Royal Court in Rabat this afternoon.

His majesty the king and the Palestinian president held talks lasting one hour, 40 minutes.

His Majesty King Hassan II and president of the State of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat then held an expanded meeting, which was attended by the Moroccan and Palestinian sides.

Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived at Rabat-Sale Airport this morning, where he was welcomed by Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali; adviser to his majesty the king Ahmed Bensoudah; Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Rabat Abu Marwan; Governor of Rabat-Sale Omar Benchemsi; the commander of the military garrison; the commander of the Rabat-Sale military base; and a number of prominent personalities.

The Palestinian president was given a salute by a squad of the Moroccan Armed Forces.

Kuwait

Aide Rejects Cease-Fire Before Full Liberation

PM2901100391 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 25 Jan 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Says: No Truce Before Liberation and Restoration of Legitimacy"]

[Text] Al-Ta'if, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that the Kuwaiti rejection of the ideas and initiatives proposed to secure a cease-fire in the war to liberate Kuwait stems from the fact that the Iraqi regime intransigently rejected scores of initiative before war was declared and in a way that proved it was insisting on its aggression and on ignoring all peace overtures from world states and organizations.

In view of this, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad yesterday emphasized in a statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI that Kuwait's legitimate leadership and people can never think of or believe the ideas or solutions proposed by some parties—to which we are grateful—before the Iraqi regime's actual implementation of the resolutions unanimously agreed by the international community and which "do not need any interpretation." Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad pointed out that that meant that "the liberation war cannot witness any truce or a cease-fire before the total withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy there, and then we will see."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stressed that any withdrawal must be "unconditional"—and indeed we would accept it only if it is—in order to affirm the freedom and sovereignty of the Kuwaiti leadership and people—"the freedom and sovereignty we exercised before and after 2 August despite the shameful predicaments and disasters that have afflicted us."

In his statement Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad drew the attention of those who desire peace to the fact that "no tragedy is worse than the Kuwaiti people's present tragedy. If it is true that the Iraqi regime and its leader, Saddam Husayn, are concerned for the people's destinies and conditions, they would not have experienced what has befallen us." On the basis of all that, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad hoped that those who are proposing ideas for solutions "would first address their ideas to the Iraqi regime and prove to us in practice the end of our country's occupation." He also said: "Initiatives should not be presented to us. We are the ones against whom the aggression has been committed. They should be addressed to the aggressor, who must eliminate the results of his aggression."

Kuwaiti Aircraft Hit Targets Inside Iraq

LD2801192591 London KUNA in Arabic 1814 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 28. Jan (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Air Force has dealt successful blows to artillery positions and provisions and ammunition depots of the Iraqi forces inside Kuwait. It has also been announced that Kuwaiti forces have launched raids against military targets inside Iraqi territory, for the first time since the beginning of the war for the liberation of Kuwait.

Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad told KUNA today that the Kuwaiti Air Force launched two air raids. Ten Skyhawk aircraft took part in the first one, at 1000 [0700 GMT] today, while eight aircraft took part in the second raid that took place this evening, and reached the Iraqi borders.

Shaykh Nawwaf emphasized: "The Kuwaiti eagles of the sky completed their missions sucessfully, dealt with the Iraqi forces with full competence, and returned to their bases safely."

Meanwhile, Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad also told KUNA: "The Kuwaiti airmen dealt successful blows to military targets inside Iraqi territory yesterday, and returned safely to base."

This was the first time that an announcement has been made about air raids made by the Kuwaiti Air Force inside Iraqi territory since the beginning of the liberation operation led by the forces of the international alliance forces after 17 January 1991.

The Kuwaiti minister said: "The Kuwaiti eagles are proving every day their great cleverness and sacrifice for the liberation of their country from the claws of Iraqi occupation" that is drawing close to its sixth month.

INA Alleges 12 Officers Killed in Quarrel

NC2901112491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Hafar al-Batin, 29 Jan (INA)—Twelve officers from the followers of Croesus [amir of Kuwait] have been killed in a quarrel with other military personnel in the Hafar al-Batin area.

INA has learned from press sources in the area that the quarrel began when a number of officers from the followers of Croesus began to curse and abuse other military personnel, accusing them of being loyal to Iraq.

It should be noted that a state of panic, anxiety, and accusations and counteraccusations prevails among the invading forces and their allies in Najd and Hejaz.

Qatar

Minister Says Oil Poses 'No Danger' To Fishing

NC2801164191 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Doha, Jan. 28 (WAKH)—The oil slick in the Gulf is far away from Qatari regional waters and posed no

danger to fishing areas, an official source at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture said.

The source also said there is no danger to marine life inside Qatari regional waters as a result to the slick.

The ministry wishes to assure citizens and residents that fish is abundantly available and that Qatar National Fishing Company and local fishermen are normally working, said the source.

The source said the ministry, in coordination with other concerned departments is taking all necessary measures to avert any dangers from the slick.

Saudi Arabia

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives in Riyadh

NC2801185191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Jan (SANA)—Syrian foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Riyadh this evening.

They were received by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; senior Foreign Ministry officials; Mr. 'Umar al-Sayyid, Syria's ambassador in Riyadh; and the Syrian Embassy staff.

King Fahd Presides Over Ministers Meeting

LD2801162491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 28 Jan (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, presided over the meeting held by the Council of Ministers this afternoon in Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

After the meeting, Minister of Information Mr. Ali al-Sha'ir gave a statement to SPA in which he said:

The Council of Ministers today continued to study the military, political, and economic events in light of the daily reports presented to the Council—at the king's directives—by the concerned ministers.

The council discussed the information concerning the situation at the battlefront and what has been achieved in the liberation of Kuwait operations.

In this context, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, explained to the Council the details of the results of the air and sea operations since their commencement until this morning and the expected developments during future stages.

His royal highness praised the great skill shown by the pilots and technicians of the Saudi Royal Air Force in performing their duties as well as their great efficiency and accuracy.

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz pointed out the important achievements scored very successfully by the Saudi Royal Navy.

Based on the daily reports presented by the Command of the Joint Forces and the Field of Operations, his highness the second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and inspector general has expressed his appreciation on the whole regarding important and successful missions carried out by the Arab, Islamic, and international forces, which have achieved, with a tangible superiority and high spirit, their defined aims in accordance with the general plan for the liberation of fraternal Kuwait since the beginning of the war.

The minister of information added afterward that the Council of Ministers was briefed within the framework of the current situation by Mr. Hisham al-Nazir, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning. The briefing covered comprehensively and in details the oil spill and the means for dealing with it.

Minister Nazir added: The precautions taken under such circumstances relate not only to the oil but also to the other utilities, such as desalination and electricity, where double efforts have been taken.

He pointed out, however, that there is now over 11 million barrels of oil in the sea which were dumped by the Iraqi forces, according to reports by experts and specialists.

He added that it is necessary to carry out new sophisticated studies with a view to combating the dangers resulting from pollution in a radical manner rising above the normal level of combat, not only regarding the oil utilities but also all the public utilities.

The cabinet entrusted the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth to cooperate with all the specialized bodies for achieving this aim.

Minister Nazir added that the flow of oil into the Arab Gulf must be stopped now, at the source, adding that "this seems to have been accomplished, though the results have not yet been completely analyzed."

The minister of information added: Considering the aforementioned, the beloved king informed the Council of Ministers on a number of matters revolving around the current difficult circumstances facing the Arab region, expressing his satisfaction at the information contained in the military reports—information that warrants thanks and appreciation for the joint forces. He then briefed the Council of Ministers of his contacts with His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Arab Republic of Syria; as well as the outcome of his talks with the Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and his accompanying delegation, praising the firm Islamic stance adopted by Pakistan, the people and the

government, supporting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in its just struggle against unjustice and tyranny.

Al-Sha'ir went on to say: The Council of Ministers also examined a number of topics dealing with local affairs and took the necessary measures and made decisions to deal with them. [passage omitted]

Source Says Israeli Planes Not in Allied Forces

LD2801174791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1657 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Jan (SPA)—In a statement to SPA today, a responsible source derided the false claim—reported by a German news agency today, Monday 28 January 1991, citing Baghdad radio—that 50 Israeli aircraft have joined the joint forces.

The source added: This report, which is fabricated in letter and spirit, comes as part of the framework of the Iraqi falsehoods with which the ruler of Iraq is trying in vain to divert attention from his continuing crimes and repeated transgressions, including the pouring of 11 million barrels of oil into the Arabian Gulf waters, causing environmental pollution and the death of birds and fish.

At the end of his statement, the source said: While categorically denying that there is any truth in the report, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expects all international news agencies to be careful not to get involved in disseminating fabricated news issued by the trumpets of the Iraqi ruler for well-known and exposed purposes and objectives.

New Consignments of Patriot Missiles Arrive

LD2801221991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2145 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Jan (SPA)—New consignments of Patriot missiles are arriving in the Kingdom and at the joint forces' operation theater on board the giant Galaxy aircraft through the biggest air bridge. This was explained by the command of the joint forces and the operation theater.

The Patriot missile has proved its effectiveness in intercepting Iraqi Scud missiles and destroying them in midair before they can arrive at their targets.

Joint Forces Issue Military Communique No. 11

LD2801175291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Military Communique No. 11 issued by the command of the joint forces and field of operations in Riyadh on 28 January 1991]

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 28 Jan—In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

The aggressor continues to use intermittent artillery and missile fire against some of the border points. No human or material losses have resulted from this.

The number of air sorties carried out by the joint forces since the start of the Desert Storm operation has reached 24,884, of which our air forces have carried out 1,656.

Exchanges of fire with light weapons took place between units of the Saudi border corps and the aggressor forces in a number of border centers. The sources of fire were silenced.

The U.S. naval forces yesterday shelled two enemy patrol boats at the entrance to Kuwait harbor, destroying one of them. Nothing is known about damage caused to the other boat.

Two sea mines have been discovered in the Arab Gulf waters in the last 24 hours. Our naval forces are still dealing with one of them with a view to blowing it up, while the U.S. naval forces have been tackling the other with a view to blowing it up also.

Scud Launched at Riyadh Intercepted 28 Jan

LD2801191191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Brother viewers, we have just received the following: A responsible source at the command of the joint forces and operations theater has stated that at 2100 this evening [1800 GMT], on the night of Monday, 28 January, the Iraqi aggressor launched one Scud missile in the direction of Riyadh. With the help of God, the missile was intercepted and blown up in the air.

Police Allegedly Killed Riyadh Imam, Brother

NC2901092991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, 29 Jan (INA)—The police force of the traitor of the two holy mosques has opened fire on the imam of the Grand Mosque in Riyadh and his brother, making them the first two martyrs to lose their lives for the sake of the truth in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

The Jordanian paper SHIHAN cites informed sources in the Arabian Peninsula as saying that the imam and his brother were killed after the Friday sermon in the above-mentioned mosque. The imam issued a ruling during the sermon which denounced the regime of the traitor of the two holy mosques, who invited the forces of atheism and tyranny to occupy the land of Muslim sanctities in Najd and Hejaz.

The sources note that in his Friday sermon the imam of the Grand Mosque called for jihad and for killing the Al Sa'ud family instead of Iraqi Muslims.

Yemen

'Mass' Pro-Iraqi Demonstration Reported

EA2901112091 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Excerpt] The town of Lawdar, Abyan Governorate, this morning witnessed a mass demonstration in solidarity with the Iraqi people in which mass and creative organizations besides workers, employees and schoolchildren took part. The demonstrators walked in the streets of the town shouting slogans and condemning the savage attacks by the NATO forces under American command, which are aimed at striking and destroying the capabilities and resources of the fraternal Iraqi people in the different military, scientific, and religious fields. They are doing this to impose their hegemony on the region, loot its resources, and humble its peoples. The demonstrators called on the NATO forces to withdraw their war machines from the Gulf region, vacate it, and stop their fatal, stupid acts. They confirmed their support for the steadfastness of the Iraqi people and their resistance to the allies' aggression. [passage omitted]

Saddam Receives CNN Correspondent 28 Jan

NC2801213291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today received Peter Arnett, the CNN correspondent in Baghdad.

Arnett conducted an interview with the leader president that dealt with the aggressive war against our country and our great Iraqi people's steadfastness and their heroic confrontation of aggression. The meeting was attended by Minister of Information and Culture Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

'A Number' of POW's Said Wounded in Air Raids

NC2801211991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2111 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] INA has learned that as a result of the enemy air raids on populated areas and civilian targets yesterday and today, a number of captured pilots were wounded. The responsible military quarters did not indicate whether any of the injured pilots have died.

Statement Says One Killed

NC2901134891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1309 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Statement issued by a military spokesman—read by announcer] txt
[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

As part of the crimes being committed by the U.S. Administration and its Atlantic allies against steadfast Iraq and the residential areas in its towns and the economic installations, the enemy fired three missiles simultaneously with a number of air raids against Baghdad last night. One of the raids hit one of the departments of the Ministry of Industry, killing one of the captured foreign pilots, who had been evacuated to that department.

We declare to the world public that the United States bears the results of these ugly crimes committed against our citizens and the prisoner pilots whom Iraq is hosting. We have repeatedly warned against attacking residential and civilian targets, not only out of our interest in protecting the lives of our citizens, but also to protect the lives of those who have been sent by the barbarism of Bush and the other governments that are taking part in the aggression against our country.

Let the voices of peace advocates, good people, and the families of the prisoners rise up to denounce Bush's crimes and this particular crime, which demonstrates the lack of ethical and humanitarian responsibility of U.S. statesmen.

[Dated] 29 January 1991.

Statement Claims 'Residential Areas' Bombed

NC2801175691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1735 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Statement issued by Iraqi military spokesman on 28 January—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

As an expression of U.S.-Zionist barbarism and hatred toward our people and renaissance, as well as our country and cultural civilization, the enemies resumed their air sorties over the residential areas in our country.

The number of sorties since this morning and until 1800 today has reached 16. They were confronted by heavy fire by the men of our ground and air defenses.

[Dated] 28 January 1991

12 U.S. Aircraft Said Destroyed at Dhahran Base

NC2801180491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] The Tehran paper KAYHAN has disclosed that the Iraqi missiles fired at Dhahran airbase in Najd and Hejaz have destroyed 12 U.S. aircraft at the base.

The INA correspondent in Amman has cited the paper as saying that the United States has shrouded its aircraft losses in secrecy to avoid any impact on the morale of the U.S. soldiers and U.S. public.

It should be recalled that several Iraqi missiles have dealt blows to the base from which the aircraft of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aircraft take off to attack Iraq.

Communique Claims 'Six Air Targets' Downed 29 Jan

NC2901075191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0706 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Military communique No. 28 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: God is great. Glory and life to our country and to our Armed Forces which are fighting all falsehood with all faith. Let the world hear and let history write that the Iraqi people, despite all the means of aggression massed against them and despite all the psychological terrorism exercised by the Western and Zionist propaganda machines, are becoming more steadfast and firm and that their strength is growing. These people have organized their economic and military capabilities in a manner that will safeguard their sovereignty and territorial integrity against any desecration and also in a manner that will ensure the attainment of complete victory against the savage enemies in the arena of combat, as well as in all other arenas.

At a time when the enemies are showing confusion and a lack of balance before the firmness of the Iraqi position, Iraq and its Armed Forces are clear about their objectives and have clear vision. They are taking every eventuality into consideration and steering the course of events with the aim of defeating the aggressors. These great people remain stronger than the evils concocted against them. They remain immune to the remnants of the colonialists, Zionists, and agents. Victory will be their destiny, regardless of whether the days of aggression are prolonged or shortened, or whether the aggressors vary and change their methods. Almighty God grants victory to His faithful slaves.

The following is a roundup of our activities and also of the enemy's aggression for yesterday afternoon and last night:

First: With God's help last night, our heroic missile forces shot missiles into the dens of the forces of disgrace and betrayal in their capital Riyadh.

Second: With God's help, our heroic missile forces launched a missile strike against the dens of the enemy and the desecrators of the dear land of Palestine in the city of Tel Aviv before midnight yesterday.

Having accomplished these tasks, the missile launchers returned safely with God's help. Blessed be the firm hands, the vigilant minds, and the faithful hearts of the heroic men in our missile forces, officers and enlisted personnel.

Third: With God's help, a number of field missile strikes were mounted against the enemy's positions and its individuals assembled at points inside Saudi territory. Our forces inflicted significant human and equipment losses on the aggressors. Glory will be recorded for the heroic men of the field missile forces.

Fourth: The enemy continued its bombardment of residential areas and commercial shops in our cities and villages. The enemy also continued its attempts to bombard our defensive positions. The total number of air sorties and missile strikes amounted to 65.

Fifth: Our air and ground defenses in the civilian districts and on the battlefronts stood fast against the enemy and succeeded in shooting down six air targets, both aircraft and missiles. May God bless your collective efforts, O sons of Iraq. Forge ahead. God is with you.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 12 Rajab 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 29 January 1991

Suicide Attacks on Allied Fleet Said Approved

LD2501113691 Madrid in Spanish to Europe 1100 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] The Iraqi Parliament has met in a secret bunker and has approved the sending of aircraft on suicide missions. The Spanish daily EL MUNDO today publishes two dispatches sent from Baghdad by its reporter, Alfonso Rojo, the only foreign journalist apart from Peter Arnett of the U.S. television network CNN remaining in the Iraqi capital. The reports published today, Friday, by the Spanish daily, were sent to Madrid by the Spanish Embassy in Jordan where they arrived via an unknown channel. The Spanish journalist says in these reports that, meeting in a secret underground bunker, the Iraqi Parliament has approved the sending of aircraft on suicide missions against the allied fleet.

According to the special correspondent for the daily EL MUNDO, the CNN journalist Peter Arnett has refused to allow the use of the U.S. network's transmission system to send reports to Spain.

IRNA Reports Basra Oil Complex Bombarded

LD2901104791 Tehran IRNA in English 1016 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Khorramshahr, Khuzestan Prov., Jan. 29, IRNA—Petrochemical complex in the Iraqi port-city of Basra, opposite Khorramshahr, was bombarded by the U.S.-led forces Monday night.

According to Khorramshahr residents, the fire in the complex caused by the bombardment was visible from Khorramshahr and parts of Khorramshahr were blanketed with its smoke Tuesday morning.

No reports are yet available on the extent of damages but the billowing smoke speaks of heavy damage on the complex.

TV, Radio Broadcast Capabilities Examined

Still Operating 25 Jan

HK2501020791 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 25 Jan 91 p 17

[By Christopher Lockwood in Amman]

[Text] A week into the Gulf war, and despite massive bombardment and electronic jamming by American AWACS, Iraq doggedly continues to communicate its version of events to the outside world.

Radio Baghdad remains the principal outlet.

Though Baghdad's main telecommunications building was knocked out on the second day of bombing and much of the city is denied power, generators and other transmitters in unknown but presumably well-protected locations are able to broadcast on a dozen shortwave radio frequencies throughout the day and into the night.

The signal is weak, but is being effectively monitored by the BBC in Amman, Reuters in Nicosia and even by the BBC's highly sophisticated international monitoring station in England, though at the latter, the signal is frequently inaudible.

The BBC's listener in Amman is Hala al Khaia. She reports that there is seldom any difficulty in making out what is said, but that the job is monotonous.

Most of the day's programming consists of songs of praise for President Mr Saddam Husayn, interrupted at intervals by military communiques.

There have been 16 military communiques since the beginning of the war, and each is repeated five or six times.

They announced the shooting down of allied planes (more than 150 so far) as well as details of the latest bombing raids and calls to a worldwide Holy war.

Each day, at 12.30 pm Baghdad time, there is an extended news bulletin filled with anti-American rhetoric and news of peace demonstrations.

Of far greater impact are television broadcasts, though since most Iraqis are without power, the domestic audience cannot be large.

Again, it is not clear where Baghdad Television's broadcasts are coming from or how.

After the first day of bombing, Iraq's main television outlet to the world was cut off. Iraq is now unable to broadcast via Arabsat, a communications satellite owned by a consortium of Arab countries but controlled from Riyadh.

It is speculated that Iraq's satellite earth-station was damaged by a bombing raid, and television technicians in Amman say that to repair such sophisticated equipment is difficult at the best of times and probably impossible now, since Iraq is not believed to possess the highly-trained technicians and spare parts needed to do the job.

Even if Iraq was able to restore its up-link, the Saudi Arabian controllers of the satellite would be able and probably willing to shut down Iraq's transponder on the Arabsat, and an alternative in Amman says that they have already done so.

But, though it cannot enjoy the benefit of the satellite's wide broadcasting footprint, Iraq is still able to broadcast within the country using its network of terrestrial transmitters, some of which are clearly in operation. These signals are also spilling over the country's borders.

A weak signal is available in Iran, though not in Jordan.

At least one Western television company, Visnews, is able to monitor the Iraqi signal from Iran and rebroadcast it to its subscribers.

Visnews, a television picture agency, was able to produce the first images of the American, British and Kuwait pilots making their obviously-coerced statements of opposition to the war on Tuesday.

Better pictures are available in Baghdad itself. Two television companies are currently providing this service.

One is Cable News Network, which retains a correspondent in Baghdad.

The other is WTN, which is owned by Britain's ITN and America's ABC.

TV Still 'Cut Off' 28 Jan

LD2801210891 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] For the second night running, Iraqi television programs were not transmitted. According to a report by the Central News Unit from Ilam, since the outset of war Iraqi television broadcast programs from 1730 till 0100. But since 2007 on Sunday the Iraqi television picture has been cut off and this condition continues.

Brazilian Reportage, Analysis of Gulf Situation

Strategists: Iraq Has 30,000 Scuds

PY2701214091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2009 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Brasilia, 27 Jan (TELAM-XINHUA)—Brazilian strategists have said that Iraq has 30,000 Scud missiles to fight a long war against allied troops in the Persian Gulf. They added that the United States does not have enough "Patriot" missiles to last through a war of this duration.

This information, based on data obtained from Brazilian military attaches to Arab countries, was contained in an article published by the Brazilian newspaper CORREIO BRASILIENSE. Based on reports from attaches, Brazilian Armed Forces experts are well informed on Saddam Husayn's war capacity and plans.

The reports state that Iraq's strategy is to let the enemy take the initiative against Iraqi positions, thus weakening the power of allied forces, particularly air power and defense systems which the Baghdad troops already expected to face.

According to the Brazilian strategists, Iraq's tactic is to force the multinational troops to fight with its forces in the desert, and then to attack them with all its reserves, including the air force. They also said that it is a mistake to believe that Iraq has only 700 or 800 Scud missiles.

According to the Brazilian experts, the USSR, France, Germany, and Brazil have supplied most of Iraq's weapons. In addition to secret weapons which have not yet been employed, the USSR has given technical support to the Iraqi military for a long time.

War Hurts Brazilian Industry

PY2601160091 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Jan 91 p 23

[Text] Sao Paulo—According to Avibras [Avibras Aerospace Industry, Inc.] Director President Joao Verde, the Persian Gulf war will worsen the already very bad situation of the nearly bankrupt Brazilian arms industry. Avibras is headquartered in Sao Jose dos Campos; only two years ago it was the largest manufacturer and exporter of war materiel in Brazil. According to Verde, this war affects the country through the loss of markets as well as through variations in oil prices because the country depends on oil imports.

Verde believes that the Gulf war will extend into 1992 and that Avibras' Astros-2 multiple rocket launcher will perform in an outstanding manner because of its technological superiority and sophistication, which will be an asset for future business. About a year ago Avibras sought an arrangement with creditors on paying a debt of $458 million with Brazilian and international suppliers.

Verde said the allied armies are getting rid of—at disgraceful prices—the stock of weapons that have become obsolete with the end of the Cold War and the political changes in East Europe. According to Verde, European stocks are currently being made available at large discounts. In addition to that, the allied armies now have political control of the Middle East and can impose import conditions on countries interested in setting up defense systems. Verde said this will displace Third World countries such as Brazil in the market because we can only negotiate the sale of our weapons at market prices.

Company Denied Travel to Iraq

PY2501223091 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] The Brazilian Government will not allow Avibras to send a technician to Iraq to give technical assistance to Saddam Husayn's Army.

According to today's newspapers, an Avibras technician was to go to Baghdad next month to explain how to operate and service the Astros-2 multiple rocket launcher which this private enterprise sold to the Iraqi Government.

Itamaraty Spokesman Jose Vicente Pimentel asserted that the Brazilian Government would regard this decision as very serious and would not hesitate to use all legal means to prevent it from materializing.

[Begin Pimentel recording] The government is closely following this issue. Should this information be confirmed, the government will resort to all legal means to prevent it from taking place. [end recording]

Pimentel also reported that three Brazilian citizens left Riyadh this morning on board an Argentine aircraft bound for Rio de Janeiro. Soccer players playing for Saudi Arabian teams were not released by their clubs and refrained from boarding the plane. Another six Brazilian citizens are scheduled to leave Qatar for Brazil tomorrow.

Firm Claims 'No Contacts' With Iraq

PY2601003491 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Report by Alexander Garcia from Brasilia]

[Text] Israel wants to be remembered in Caracas on 28 January when 11 countries from this region will meet.

Avibras [Avibras Aerospace Industry, Inc.] has explained to the Brazilian Government that it maintains no contacts with the Iraqi Government. The Brazilian Government accepted this explanation. Minister Francisco Rezek told me that Avibras would be severely punished if it renders technical assistance to Iraq because the Brazilian Government is concerned with enforcing the U.N.-imposed embargo on that country.

Belgian Firm Built Underground Air Force Shelters

AU2501190491 Paris AFP in English 1849 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Brussels, Jan 25 (AFP)—A Belgian company built eight underground shelters below Iraqi airbases to protect the country's Air Force, newspapers reported here Friday.

The reinforced vaults, protected by walls up to 120 centimetres (four feet) thick, are believed to be the most secure in Iraq.

But the bunkers could be destroyed by cluster bombs or the threat could be eliminated by blocking the vault doors, Belgian military expert Andre Dumoulin told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

According to Jane's Defense Weekly, the British military magazine, the bunkers could be destroyed with 900 kilogram (1,980 pound) bombs equipped anti-tank warheads.

Five of the airbases are located east of Baghdad: four on the Iranian border at Tuz Khurmatu, Nahr al-'Uzaym, al-Hayy and Qal'at Salih and a fifth on the Syrian border at Tall 'Afar. The other three, according to the Belgian papers LE SOIR and LA LIBRE BELGIQUE, are south of the city, at al-Lussuf [name as received], "KM 160" and al-Salman, facing Saudi Arabia.

The firm, Six Construct, a subsidiary of the Belgian concrete company SBBM, supervised the construction of the bunkers. They were built, at a cost of 380 million dollars, during the Iran-Iraq war.

According to a spokesman for Six Construct, quoted by LE SOIR, other countries were also involved in the shelters' construction.

Gas and anti-radioactivity protection was the work of a Swiss company, the reinforced doors came from Italy, the special trenches were French, the electronic material was of German and English origin and other equipment came from Sweden, he said.

Figures on U.S. Missiles Fired at Iraq Cited

LD2201030691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] The forces of the United States and her allies had, by 20 January, launched around 24,000 tonnes of rockets and explosives at Iraq and Kuwait. According to an IRNA report, the said figure does not include the hundreds of surface-to-surface missiles hitherto fired toward Iraq. On the basis of the same report, the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea fired around 260 to 300 surface-to-surface cruise and Hawk missiles toward Iraq in the course of the first three days of fighting.

Reportage on Conditions, Mood in Baghdad

Reporter Describes Raids

NC2701023591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jan 91 pp 1, 5

[Article by reporter Lamis Andoni: "Baghdad Will Survive... These Are Proud People and They Will Not Bow Down"]

[Excerpts] "It was like watching a beautiful woman from afar and then seeing her being transformed into something ugly, like a Medusa. It was hard to connect the vision of the coloured tracer shells shooting up into the sky, the spectacular flashes of missiles and bombs going off in the distance, with what was happening on the ground.

While the U.S. says that it has exclusively targeted military related installations, some civilian areas of Baghdad have also been hit. I saw two apartment blocks near the centre of the capital that had been bombed.

There is so much hatred of Americans now. People have been threatening to grab pilots who are shot down and chop them into pieces. I heard of one pilot being stoned before he was taken away by guards.

For seven days, JORDAN TIMES reporter Lamis Andoni watched the bombardment of Baghdad from various vantage points in the Iraqi capital. She tells her story in this article. [passage omitted]

The first night had a big impact on me. I don't think I will ever forget it. I felt very angry and very said. As a Jordanian Palestinian and a journalist, I was losing faith. I was wondering if this was the only way the West could deal with us. I felt a gap was opening up that might not be bridged. As dawn broke on the first day the reports started to circulate in the outside world that Iraqi military power was being smashed. But from the window of my room I couldn't see any sign of damage. It was a strange sensation to see no damage after the storm the night before. After much difficulty finding a driver, I took a car to go "target hunting." I went to the telecommunications building and found that it had been damaged, but not destroyed.

Iraqis themselves were shaken by the first bombardment, but they were not defeated. A young Iraqi soldier told me that he was really against the takeover of Kuwait, but that Kuwait at this point was irrelevant. "We have to defend our country, whatever happens," he said.

Iraqis have a strong sense of historical awareness. Theirs is not a new country. They cannot accept the idea of their country being eliminated. This comes up in every conversation, one way or another. [passage omitted]

Sunday was a bad day. Western journalists were finally kicked out except for Cable News Network. The few Arab journalists left in the al-Rashid Hotel decided to organise themselves. Our first task was to get detergent and buckets to clean our rooms. We were trying to make the best of things."

Iraqis began appearing again on the streets. They seemed more confident. "We feel great, we're holding up," they would say. They also expressed confidence that President Saddam had something more up his sleeve. Confidence was building.

Everywhere we went people were saying: Where are the Palestinians? When are they going to do something? Even people critical of their president, and some people were saying this. [sentence as published] They say he takes us for granted, he does whatever he likes.

Whenever an Iraqi sits down and talks to you about the president for an hour, there are a lot of contradictions. He's brave, they say, he's a man of his word compared with other Arab leaders. At the same time they get very upset that he does things on his own without consultation.

They say he should not have invaded Kuwait. But every time he hits Israel they are proud. Every time they hear about pro-Iraq demonstrations outside the country they feel very proud. But they are angry about the lack of freedom and human rights. There is a national schizophrenia about the regime. People in Iraq want freedom, but for the moment the battle is a matter of life and death. After the battle they will want more. Young Iraqi men, for example, are critical of President Saddam, but also say: "We have to unite now." There are many youths on the streets armed with Kalashnikovs. This is something new in the past few days.

On Tuesday, it seemed that thousands were discharging their Kalashnikovs in the air. A rumour had gone around that President Husni Mubarak of Egypt had been assassinated.

By early this week buses were operating again in some areas, and shops were opening. But when the government stopped petrol sales on Wednesday [23 January], cities across Iraq were brought to a standstill. Motorists

were furious because sales were cut off without warning. On the road between Baghdad and the Jordanian border many cars were stranded, having run out of petrol.

Baghdadis are trying to come to terms with a city deprived of many of its services. The bombing of power stations had cut electricity, water supplies had been affected, and the sewage system had stopped working in some areas. People were scooping up water from the Tigris for washing and cooking.

Remarkably, food supplies do not yet appear to have been seriously affected, but people had in any case stockpiled food. Bridges and roads have not yet been affected by the bombardment. All bridges over the Tigris are functioning. The Iraqis have made some preparations for new ferry points in case bridges are knocked out. Food prices, high anyway, have jumped since the first day of the war. One kilo of sugar costs 7 Iraqi dinars or about $21 at the official rate of exchange. A kilo of bananas is selling for 15 Iraqi dinars. Life seems more normal in the poorer areas than in the middle class suburbs.

In the Shi'ite area of Khazmir, people are fatalists; they are trying to go about their business as usual. A worrying thing is that there is much more hatred of Americans now. People have been threatening to grab pilots who are shot down and chop them into pieces. I heard of one pilot being stoned before he was taken away by guards.

The government appealed to people to keep the pilots alive, and when this seemed to make little impact, it offered a 10,000 Iraqi dinar reward for pilots handed over alive to the authorities.

While the U.S. says that it has exclusively targeted military-related installations, some civilian areas of Baghdad have also been hit. I saw two apartment blocks near the centre of the capital that had been bombed.

Residents of areas where military or communications centres are located say some of the bombing has been off-target. At first the Iraqi authorities did not give civilian casualty figures because they were worried about demoralising the public.

But starting from Wednesday, newspapers started publishing pictures of damage to civilian areas. The Iraqis have also started issuing civilian casualty figures.

I did not see black banners on houses; the customary sign of mourning for a death in the family. It may have been too soon for this. Everywhere I went around Baghdad there was talk of civilian casualties.

The Americans and their allies seem to have a policy of making three bombing runs a night over Baghdad, and they return to the same targets two or three times in succeeding days. I went to a site outside Baghdad that the Americans said was a biological weapons plant that had been hit three times. The Iraqis say it is a milk powder factory. The factory is almost completely damaged. I saw a substance that looked like milk powder smouldering on the ground.

I decided to leave on Wednesday morning in a car hired by Cable News Network; it was no longer possible to file stories. I felt sad when I left because I felt I was avoiding my responsibilities as a journalist—covering a side of the story that should be covered. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Says Life 'Normal'

JN2901130391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Jan 91 p 20

[By Jamal al-'Alawi]

[Text] Amman—Lawyer Mahmud al-'Abbadi, who has returned from Baghdad has affirmed that life in Baghdad is normal and that the peoples' morale is high despite the continuous shelling.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, he added that shops in Baghdad are opening and operating normally and that shops selling fruit, vegetables, and clothes are open all day.

He said that fishermen were actively going about their work and offering the Iraqi fish "al-Masquf" for sale.

He added that the Iraqi capital was only suffering from a power shutdown and rationed fuel sales, pointing out that provisions were available on the market but not in the same previous abundance.

He also said: Citizens in Baghdad are going about their usual activities without fear of the hostile warplanes, which are bombing targets around the clock. Citizens go to the shelters whenever they hear the sirens. He affirmed that Baghdad was facing the brutal shelling with splendid steadfastness and high morale, despite the fact that only residential quarters and civilians were being targeted.

He noted that damage and destruction were not clearly noticable despite the continued indiscriminate shelling by the American-Atlantic warplanes. He added that despite the bitterness caused by the shelling of houses, the Iraqi citizens say: "Our blood is for Iraq and we are sacrificing our souls to make the future." They insist on fighting and they believe that victory will come.

He also said: Iraqi Television is carrying its normal programs, which are unaffected by the current battles and the war circumstances. It continues to screen series it used to screen before the aggressive war against Iraq.

Regarding his travel to Baghdad after the start of the war, he said: During our travel with the medical delegation of the Arab health committee, we saw no military vehicles that had come under attack along the road from al-Ruwayshid to Baghdad, and all the attacked cars were civilian.

He also said: The medical delegation which went to Baghdad to contribute medical services in this pan-Arab battle included doctors of various specializations who took up work at the Iraqi Red Crescent Hospital.

He added that the medical delegation was received very warmly and that the Iraqi citizens had insisted on inviting the delegation members to eat in their homes. He said: On our way back to Amman and 11 kilometers from the al-Ratbah area, we heard the drone of planes, and the ground defense began to confront the hostile aircraft. Seconds later, a rocket fired from a plane exploded 20 meters from our car, causing a strong explosion on the highway and leaving a 10-square meter crater. Another rocket fell on a bus, killing all its civilian passengers.

Paper Vows Nation Will Liberate Holy Places

NC2801111291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jan (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH today says that Iraq, which is powerfully standing up and adhering to its independent option, has not and will not be intimidated by the spirit of aggressive vengeance that is burning in the hearts of the archevils, Bush and his allies.

In an editorial today, the paper emphasizes that Iraq is capable of turning the mother of battles into a comprehensive one that will achieve the goals of the believing masses and uproot all the evil of those who resent Iraq's civilization, which goes back thousands of years and which has been resurrected during Saddam Husayn's era.

AL-JUMHURIYAH denounces the immoral methods being pursued by the American aggressors and their allies in striking at Iraqi residential and civilian areas and destroying cultural and humanitarian installations, including the factory producing children's milk. The paper says that this is being done as an illustration of their policy and their wickedness against Iraq, whose strength is increasing and whose independence is becoming stronger without U.S. and Zionist hegemony.

The paper notes that Iraq has made its decision to repulse the aggression in defense of its existence and the existence of the Arab and Islamic nations. It says that the methods being employed by the aggressors will not shake the profound faith that fills the hearts of the Iraqi vanguards who are determined to crush the aggressors and expel them from the Arab land.

The paper says: We, the Iraqis and the believing masses rallying around the banner of God is great borne by President Saddam Husayn, will suprise our enemies every day of the mother of battles by the standards of our combat performance, the high standard of readiness, and the level of our self-confidence and tolerance of hardships.

AL-JUMHURIYAH declares that in this honorable showdown, Iraq will not renounce its legitimate rights to liberate the land of the holy places in Najd, Hejaz, and Palestine, as well as its resources, and to crush the heads of the nation's miserable traitors like Husni and agent Fahd.

Talk Promises 'Deterrent Punishment' for Bush

NC2901014891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2317 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Many are the lies of Bush, the American black house's Satan, who has frequently professed human rights and moral principles in his statements and speeches. This liar, who has no morals, (?claimed) that his aggression against Iraq would not be aimed against civilian lives and residential areas. However, the falsehood of his claims was soon exposed and the cosmetic makeup fell off his ugly face when the planes of treachery and aggression targeted houses and citizens and regarded them as an easy target.

The photographs tell the truth and prove to the entire world (?the truth about the criminal) Bush and the extent of evil and hatred toward the sons of our great Iraqi people. The pictures of the dead published today by AL-QADISIYAH show the barbarity and brutality of Bush and his agents in the Kuwait district [qada'].

We tell Bush: The hand of God is higher than your hands, and you must know that your missiles and planes that attack residential areas will not intimidate the sons of our great Iraqi people but will, in fact, enhance their determination to fight the idolator and bury the aggression begun by America's Satan and planned with the criminal Zionist spiders. The will of the people who have faith is not shaken by the clash of weapons.

In conclusion, we say: O Bush, your crimes will not pass without a deterrent punishment to you and the likes of your Zionists.

Editorial Promises Iraq 'Bound To Triumph'

NC2901102091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jan (INA)—AL-'IRAQ asserts that the next Iraqi surprises, as well as the employment of all the weapons that will break the back of aggression, will make the showdown between men the decisive factor in deciding the outcome of the war. We have no doubts that the outcome of this war will be settled in favor of Iraq, the paper adds.

The paper goes on to say: "The enemy troops led by the United States have forgotten that the Iraqis are a people who love martyrdom and that the love that they harbor for the homeland prompts them to sacrifice their lives so that the banner of Iraq may continue to wave. This has been the reason behind the heroic steadfastness of the

Iraqi people. Likewise, this also constitutes the insurmountable obstacle facing the enemy troops. This fact will cause these troops to suffer damage and losses. Furthermore, it will bring a shift in their calculations and overall conceptions."

In its editorial today, AL-'IRAQ notes that while fighting Iraq, the imperialist quarters along with the band of agents have opted to walk in a dark tunnel that will not allow them to achieve their objectives. The opposite is quite true, because the bitter and certain defeat awaiting them is the expected outcome, the paper adds.

The paper states that the unpleasant turning point which the aggression has run into as a result of the failure to make war against Iraq a lightning and decisive one is the first piece of evidence showing the collapse of the enemy's camp. The paper points out that the hostile forces that wagered on their high-tech weaponry and air superiority are now facing Iraqi firmness and steadfastness. This means that the thrust of the enemy's strategic scheme has failed, the paper adds.

The paper goes on to say: "Iraq's victory is a tangible reality which we are experiencing and feeling. That is because the enemy troops are not fighting to vindicate a just cause, whereas Iraq is fighting in defense of the homeland, honor, and dignity. Therefore, Iraq is bound to triumph."

AL-'IRAQ says: "These assessments are based on all that has been said. They also proceed from the farsighted awareness that the enemy troops will reap nothing but defeat and shame. Iraq's steadfastness and its heroic confrontation of the aggression will expand the war front beyond the current theater of operations to include all Arab and Islamic lands and all places where there are free and honorable men in the world. When such a thing happens, the schemers of the aggression will discover that their calculations about dealing with Iraq single-handedly are also doomed to failure."

The paper adds: "Iraq's defense is a jihad that gives the nation opportunity and establishes a bridge for the salvation of mankind, as the aggression being perpetrated by the allied troops and agents in the camp of evil seeks to crush pan-Arab aspirations and to strike at man's yearnings for liberation, independence, and prosperity. Therefore, the expansion of the jihad front against aggressors is the militant response which measures up to a responsible appeal. This appeal meets the requirements for the establishment of a fair world order."

Concluding its editorial, AL-'IRAQ says: "We are confident that victory will be our destiny. Likewise, we are optimistic that the aggressors will be defeated. That is because the historical juncture is in our favor, and first and foremost because God is on our side. God is great. Victory will be the destiny of Iraq."

Paper Says First Round 'Prologue' to Fiercer Battle

NC2901114291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jan (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has asserted that American barbarism will not weaken Iraqi determination to fight and take up the challenge.

In an editorial today entitled "The American Barbarism Will Sharpen Our Determination To Achieve Victory," the paper writes that it would be a mistake to think that this American barbarism can weaken the Iraqis' determination to fight and take up the challenge, because Iraq is inaccessible to all invaders and greedy people. The paper adds that Iraq has arranged enough power, fortifications, and preparations to fight the war and to guarantee enough support for its valiant Armed Forces to endure not only for years or months, but for the necessary time until victory is achieved, no matter how long it may take.

The paper adds that the American invaders and their allies have used up all the destructive weapons available to them and that they have exposed their hostile intentions to destroy Iraq. In contrast, we have only used a small portion of the various equipment available to our Armed Forces, particularly our air, missile, and naval forces. Our ground troops are standing on the front of truthfulness with all the necessary equipment and weapons, fully prepared to encounter the invaders in the battlefield. We will gain victory and build it on the bodies of the invaders and the wrecks of their humiliated weapons, the paper says.

The paper goes on to say that it is evident to anyone who has common sense that the initiative rests in the hands of Iraq and that the cards and pages of war are in the hands of the unique Iraqi leadership, which steers the Iraqi Army in a direction to enable it to uproot aggression and crush invaders and, consequently, achieve a decisive victory. No matter how the Americans try to escalate their aggression against the Iraqi people, they will only use their arbitrary might blindly and without guidance and, hence, they will run in a vicious circle out of fear of the encounter with the valiant Iraqi Army on the front of truthfulness. They will ultimately fall in our grip and we will kill them, the paper says.

As we have said before, this is only the beginning. Iraq still has the power and military and field surprises that will unfold one after another. The foreign invaders will go astray in the sands of the Arabian desert, will be tossed about by the waves of the Gulf, and will be burned by the region's oil for which they are shedding blood.

The paper points out that the Iraqi slogan has been and still is victory regardless of the sacrifices involved. This can only be achieved after inflicting the gravest ever human losses on the invaders until they surrender. Those scoundrels and Americans will eventually realize that the first round, in which their wager on technology has lost, is only the prologue to a long and ferocious battle. They

will lose blood and lives beyond their imagination and beyond the projections of their cowardly and barbarian plans.

The paper notes that the responsibility for the American barbarism against the Iraqi people will fall primarily on all those who sided with Washington in a suspicious alliance designed to invade and occupy the region, as well as on all the governments and organizations that hear about and watch the American aggression without moving a finger, either due to their malevolence against Iraq and the Arab nation or for fear of the tyrant American might.

The paper affirms that the Iraqi people are heroically standing fast against this barbaric aggression in a way that confuses the enemy and pressures it into making incoherent statements admitting the failure of their hostile plans. These people, the paper adds, will not be dissuaded by the supicious silence from fighting in the showdown until the end. On the contrary, the more barbaric the Americans are the more the hearts of our fighters will be filled with the desire to take revenge on every foreign invader when the time comes for the face-to-face encounter.

Commentary Derides Patriot Missiles' Capabilities

NC2901120391 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio Network in Arabic 1045 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: The stance of the Western propaganda machines is a strange one. They do not only propagate lies. They also expose their own lies, reminding us of Goebbels who said: Lie and go on lying until others believe you.

The good and fortunate coincidence that exposed their lies were their songs in high praise of the Patriot missile after the al-Husayn missiles hit the residence of the director of the Patriot missiles corporation in Tel Aviv. The Western propaganda on the U.S. Patriot missile is costly, particularly considering that the expenses of this propaganda are extremely huge.

However, the reputation of the Patriot is immensely disproportionate to its effectiveness, as it was designed to intercept other missiles. The fight between the al-Husayn missiles and the Patriots showed the al-Husayn missiles overpowering the Patriots. But, Western media do not know how to conceal their previous lies when the shortcomings of the Patriots become public knowledge. Events have shown that these missiles were fired by mistake in Turkey as a result of errors in computer memory. The Western news media insinuated that the al-Husayn missiles had landed only once in Tel Aviv and destroyed government buildings there. These media claimed that the Patriot missiles then woke from their slumber and destroyed the Iraqi ones. Good heavens! The Western media once again said that the Patriots had destroyed the al-Husayn missiles when the latter had destroyed government buildings used by the Al Sa'ud dynasty in the city of Riyadh. Good heavens!

Media anecdotes are abundant. At the same time, Western lies increase. As for the Patriots, they continue to commit suicide in midair. The battle continues unabated between the Patriots and the al-Husayns. Whenever the destruction caused by the al-Husayn missile in the dens of evil increases, the Western lies increase. Let them wait for the attacks of the brother al-Husayn missiles. Just wait and see.

Arab Soldiers Urged To Turn Weapons on Americans

NC2901023391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2133 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Fight them, and God will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you to victory over them, heal the breasts of believers. [Koranic verse]

Brother Arab soldier in the Arabian Peninsula, who are these invaders who are surrounding you and who desecrate the land of Islamic sanctities? Why did they come here? What do they want from us, Arabs and Muslims? Brother Arab soldier, you and I know these Americans. We both ask why they have occupied our Arab land and why are they threatening aggression against your Iraqi brothers. These Americans have perpetrated the ugliest crimes against the nations of the world and have committed injustice and aggression against Arabs and Muslims. They supported the Zionist entity's occupation of the Arab land. It is the Americans who helped the Zionists to occupy Sinai, the Golan, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank in June 1967. The Zionists killed thousands of your Arab brothers in Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and everywhere in the Arab homeland with U.S. weapons. It is the Americans who fought the Arabs and saved the Zionist entity from defeat in October 1973. It is the Americans who allowed the Zionists to occupy Lebanon and destroy Beirut in 1982.

The crimes of the Americans and their Zionists are countless. It is America that robbed Arab wealth and money and turned its agents, the corrupt oil shaykhs, into tools to harm the Arab nation. Today, America occupies the land of Islamic sanctities and desecrates with its infidel armies holy Mecca and the tomb of the Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him. Now America threatens aggression against Iraq and its Arab mujahid people.

Brother Arab soldier, you know all this and know the facts about the U.S.-Zionist aggression against the Arab nation. As long as you know that these invaders, alongside whom you have been forced to sit, have come bearing hate for you and all your Arab brothers, as long as you realize the evil objectives of the Americans and their designs on our Arab land and wealth, then you are required to avenge your honor, your nation's dignity,

and your Arab brothers who were martyred in the fields of battle against the Americans and the Zionists. You must take revenge on the evil invaders and help to purge the land of Islamic sanctities of the desecration of the U.S.- Zionist aggression.

Rely on God, join the ranks of the faithful mujahidin. Do not hesitate to aim your weapon at the hearts of the Americans. Vengeance, vengeance, O son of Egypt. Vengeance, vengeance, O son of Syria. Vengeance, vengeance, O son of Morocco. Vengeance, O sons of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]. Vengeance, vengeance, vengeance, O soldiers of the Arab world. These are the Americans, the allies of Zionism, who have occupied our land. The hour of jihad has come.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. And indeed we will make them taste of the penalty of this life prior to the supreme penalty, in order that they may repent and return. And who does more wrong than one to whom are recited the signs of his Lord and who turns away therefrom? Verily from those who transgress We shall exact retribution. [Koranic verses]

War Reportedly Throws Opposition Into 'Disarray'

NC2601103691 Paris AFP in English 0748 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, Jan 26 (AFP)—The massive allied bomb attacks on Iraq, far from bringing joy to the exiled opponents of President Saddam Husayn, have thrown their ranks into disarray.

Torn between their hopes that the U.S.-led military attacks will bring down Mr. Husayn's regime and their fears that the Iraqi people is uniting behind his leadership, the opponents are bitterly critical of allied military strategy.

The largest opposition groups are Shiites, who oppose a regime led mainly by Sunnis; Kurds seeking independence, who are based here and in Iran, and dissidents of Iraq's ruling Ba'th party, who are based here in the Syrian capital.

Recently, the Higher Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq went as far as to threaten to fight alongside the Iraqi army if the U.S.-led military coalition stepped beyond their goal of winning back Kuwait and entered Iraq.

One of the council's members, the Organization of Islamic Action, claimed the allied bombings had killed 100,000 Iraqis.

"American planes are slaughtering the Iraqi people while Saddam hides in shelters," the organization said.

"It is Iraq, not Saddam Husayn, that is being destroyed," charged Hadi Mudarissi, the brother of the organization's leader, in an interview with AFP here.

He said continued reliance on sanctions would have provided a better springboard for the opposition.

He went on to assert that the allies are not committed to overthrowing Mr. Husayn's regime.

"Once Kuwait is freed, what guarantee do we have that the Americans will not negotiate with the tyrant, who was after all their ally against the Islamic Revolution"? he asked.

Generally, the Shiite opposition has taken the same stance as the Iranian government, which has criticized both sides in the conflict.

But the Shiites are giving increasing credence to Iraqi claims of American bombings of the holy Iraqi cities of al-Najaf and Karbala'—cities Washington denies it ever attacked.

For Hasan al-'Alawi, one of the leaders of the Iraqi ba'ath party opposition based here, a popular uprising against Mr. Husayn is impossible now.

"Saddam Husayn used repression to turn Iraqi society into a monolith, and this cohesion is being reinforced by the war," he said.

The only way the opposition can overcome the Husayn regime is to organize the 1.7 million Iraqis living in exile into seizing control of what would become "a liberated zone in Iraq," he suggested.

For the Kurdish rebels of northern Iraq, where 5,000 died from a Baghdad-launched poison-gas attack in the town of Halabjah in 1988, the war has brought new suffering.

Iraqi Kurds here say the Turkish air force has taken advantage of the Gulf war to bomb areas held by Kurdish rebels in Turkish territory, while U.S. aircraft bomb Iraqi Kurds from bases in Turkey.

On Friday, a Kurdish Iraqi rebel chief warned here that his forces would fight against the Turkish army if it entered Iraq.

"The Turkish army will have to pass over our bodies to get into Iraq," Jalal Talabani said.

Mr. Talabani, who leads the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said in an interview here that his group had called off its operations against Iraqi troops in the northern provinces.

Mr. Talabani said thousands of Kurdish rebels who had taken refuge in Iran "to flee the repression of Saddam Husayn" had returned to Iraq since the Gulf war erupted on January 17.

But his forces will not enter the fray right off "because we do not want to be manipulated again and then end up paying the price of agreements between regional powers," he said.

About 20 million Kurds live in mountainous areas straddling Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria.

Opposition Leader Hakim Condemns Western Attacks

LD2001101191 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Qom, Jan. 20, IRNA—Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqir Hakim condemned the attack of Western forces on Iraq and called on the regional Islamic countries to try to avert this devastating war.

Speaking in commemoration service of one of his family membars here Saturday night, Hakim lashed out at the Western forces for invading Iraq as a result of which he said a number of Muslim people of Iraq have been killed or wounded.

He called on the international community and Islamic countries especially those in the region to do their best for ending the devastating war as soon as possible.

Various groups of Iraqi people residing here, [word indistinct] theologians studying at the Qom Theological Center and Muslim people from other countries were present in the ceremony.

Opposition leader of Kuwaiti Shiite Muslims, Muhammad Baqir Mohri who was also present, condemned the military invasion against Iraq and called on Islamic countries especially Iran to take measures to end the escalating and destructive clashes.

Expounds on Position

LD2801193791 Tehran IRNA in English 1607 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—An Iraqi opposition leader said on Monday that the position of Iraqi dissident expatriates towards the Persian Gulf war was a neutral one, adding "we as an opposition force consider ourselves to be on the side of the Iraqi people."

"The (Persian Gulf) war is aimed at destroying the economic resources of the Iraqi people," Muhammad Baqir Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution [SAIRI] told a press conference here.

Hakim made it clear that "these crimes (by the U.S. led alliance) are in no way acceptable to us and it is not possible for the Iraqi people to remain silent." He also held the U.S. and its allies responsible for initiating the conflict.

"We have instructed our forces inside Iraq to attack invading forces in case ground battle (between Iraq and multi-national forces) breaks out.

"This does not mean our support [is] for Saddam (Husayn), but rather we will fight both the U.S. and Saddam while defending Iraqi soil," Hakim said.

Elsewhere in the conference, attended by domestic and foreign reporters, Hakim said according to the latest news reaching here from war fronts, the Western allied forces have bombed the holy cities of al-Najaf and Karbala'. But he said he had no information if the holy sanctuaries in those cities had been damaged.

He said if a pro-U.S. government came to power in Baghdad in the future, SAIRI would oppose it.

"The U.S. wants to install a regime (in Baghdad) that continues Saddam's methods while we want a system that respects Islamic laws and Iraq's independence and territorial integrity and can establish friendly ties with other countries," he said.

On the emergency landing of seven Iraqi fighters in Iran on Saturday [26 January], Hakim said since it was a military issue he was unable to elaborate on it, but "many of the pilots of those aircraft are likely to have come to the Islamic Republic to save their lives."

Asked about his opinion on the Syrian Government's war policy, he said "We have informed Syria of our views. Of course, our views are different from theirs at present but Syria has said in response that it is in its interest to take such a position."

However, the SAIRI described Syria's refusal to take part in military action agianst Iraq as a "positive point" and said Damascus had better maintain its pre-war stance and try to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

He said Iraqi opposition groups in a joint statement have expressed their sympathy with the Muslim people of Iraq, saying [it is] true that they want to topple the present Iraqi regime but this did not mean that they should cooperate with those opposed to the Iraqi people.

He declined to identify those opposition groups cooperating with the enemies of the Iraqi nation.

Hakim said in his Sunday's [27 January] meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati he hailed the Islamic Republic for its efforts to end the war and its readiness to send relief aid to the Iraqi people.

Describing Iraqi President Saddam Husayn as an "American phenomenon", Hakim said "Saddam during his 8-year long war against the Islamic Republic declared his opposition to Islam and caused many Iranian and Iraqi people to be killed."

The SAIRI head also criticized the Saudi clan, saying "The Al Sa'ud dynasty put all its capabilities at the disposal of the Saddam regime during the imposed war to be used against both nations of Iran and Iraq. The Iraqi people believe that Al Sa'ud accounted for a great deal of the bloodshed in the war."

Addressing the reporters, Hakim said the war has been waged against the defenceless citizens of Iraq and the Iraqi people have been taken hostages. "In this war, both

captors and captives will be killed...The Iraqi regime is using its people as human shields."

Due to the ground, naval and air blockade of Iraq, the people are facing food shortages and "we thank the Islamic Republic for taking the first step towards sending relief aid," he said and called on all impartial countries in the world to follow suit.

Details Damage to Nation

LD2901112991 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA—Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqir Hakim in a press conference here Monday [28 January] briefed reporters on the internal situation in Iraq and the damage caused to the country in the air raids and missile attacks of the U.S.-led allied forces since the outbreak of the Pesian Gulf war on January 17.

The Iraqi opposition leader in a leaflet distributed among the reporters said that the information was based on reliable reports from inside Iraq.

According to the report, the U.S.-led allied forces planes mainly attack military airports and centers, government establishments. Indiscriminate attacks are also carried out on civilian areas in all Iraqi provinces.

Targets attacked include, the presidential palace, defence ministry, intelligence service headquarters, Hilton Hotel, 'Amarah TV station, government offices near 'Amarah bridge, al-Meimuna airport, Nasiriyah power station and Basra's main oil pipeline.

Baghdad and Basra, which have been evacuated, are the target of missile attacks said the report adding that contrary to Western propaganda, many targets inside Iraq have remained intact.

Operation of Iraq's anti-aircraft units is restricted and planes continuously appear on Iraqi air space.

Meanwhile the Iraqi regime has to some extent lost control of the country's security and the popular army is tasked to safeguard and patrol the cities. People are prevented from fleeing to the neighbouring countries and are only allowed to leave the cities for the nearby areas.

Both water and electricity supplies are cut off for several consecutive days. Flour is rationed to five kilograms per person a month and prices of foodstuff have skyrocketed creating shortage.

Large-scale desertion is wide-spread in the army with few cases of disobedience and revolt inside the army. Fire squads have been set up behind the frontline to stop desertion, said the report.

People are divided over the war and some consider the present situation as the best opportunity to topple Saddam Husayn.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in a letter to the U.N. chief has said that during the first four days of the war, 324 civilians have been killed and 416 others injured.

The air raids on the holy city of al-Najaf has left 130 dead, the letter said underlining that a clinical center, a stadium, a museum and the ancient Saint Thomas Church in Ninawa' have been severely damaged in air attacks by the U.S.-led allied forces.

'Aziz has also claimed that clustered bombs have been used against Tikrit, the birthplace of Saddam Husayn.

Kurdish Official Accuses Regime of 'Genocide'

AU2901112491 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 29 Jan 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "220,000 Kurds and Christians Murdered; 'Genocide in Iraq'"]

[Text] The Society for Endangered Peoples (GfbV) accuses the Iraqi Ba'th regime of the murder of 200,000 Kurds and 20,000 Assyrian Christians between 1968 and 1990. It is surprising that the genocide of the ethnic minorities in Iraq plays a minor role in the media reports on the Gulf war, a GfbV circular says. In an interview for APA [AUSTRIA PRESS AGENCY], Sadi Pire [name as published], spokesman of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in Austria, recently also deplored the "untruthfulness" of Western policy.

During the war between Iraq and Iran the Kurds had strongly warned the West against supporting Saddam Husayn, Pire stressed to APA. However, instead of sanctions, arms continued to be supplied to Baghdad even after the poison gas attacks on Kurdish civilians, he said.

Shamir Discusses Aspects of War in Gulf

Saddam Assassination Not Sought

TA2901111791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shamir's warning yesterday that Saddam Husayn would be putting himself in grave personal danger if he launched chemical weapons at Israel should not be interpreted to mean Israel would seek to assassinate him, the Prime Minister's Office said.

Shamir, asked about the prospects of a chemical attack in an interview with Israel Radio, said that Israel remains uncertain whether Saddam has the capability to launch missiles with chemical warheads, nevertheless, "if he uses (chemical weapons), he endangers himself and his state in a very, very grave way."

Officials later explained: "We don't have a death squad, but his country will be hit hard, and he won't be spared that."

In a separate radio interview yesterday, Defense Minister Moshe Arens indicated that without Saddam, fighting in the Gulf would probably stop immediately.

One of the few Israeli officials to openly call for the allies to kill Saddam has been Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat. Surveying damaged areas in his city last week, the plain-speaking Lahat said, "First, Saddam Husayn has to be liquidated. Then, the military infrastructure of Iraq must be destroyed. If somebody had killed Hitler, the lives of millions would have been saved." [passage omitted]

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, speaking last night in Jerusalem to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, called on the world to put Saddam on trial as a war criminal when the war ends. [passage omitted]

As countries continued to voice their solidarity and sympathy with Israel for its policy of restraint in the face of missile attacks, Foreign Minister David Levi told the conference that Israel's "diplomatic situation has never been better."

Ties with the Bush Administration have warmed considerably during the war and the Brussels-based European Community Commission has ended sanctions against scientific ties with Israel imposed last year.

Levi was incensed with the criticism voiced abroad and in Israel over the timing of Jerusalem's request for compensation and increased aid from the U.S. Last week, during the visit of Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i laid out a request package comprising $3 billion for war compensation and $10 billion in loans for Soviet Jewish immigration over a five year period.

Levi said, "There is a monetary pool in the U.S. and Europe, but we have not been on the lists of those receiving aid. This is discrimination.... Nobody should accuse (us) of trying to use the broad support for Israel to exploit this."

One prominent American said privately, "It was fine for Israel to ask for compensation for costs incurred during the war, but why does Israel mix this with Soviet Jewish absorption?"

When asked about the Middle East after the war, Levi spoke of talks with Palestinians in a mixed delegation with Jordan. He reiterated his belief that emphasis would be placed on arms control, as well as a commitment by all member states in the region to settle disputes by political, not military means.

Appeals to U.S. on Western Iraq

TA2901112991 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1105 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] We have no policy of restraint, just as we have no policy of retaliation. Our policy is to defend ourselves and our interests, and we will choose the appropriate time and method. These remarks were made today by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in a meeting with the visiting leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The prime minister's remarks were an accurate reflection of the government stand as expressed in the consultations with senior ministers held last night. Israel reserves the right to react at the appropriate time and in the method it chooses, although the time and the manner may change in accordance with prevailing circumstances.

In this morning's meeting, Prime Minister Shamir said that the fact that Israel is acting with restraint does not mean it will continue doing so in the future. We must always take into consideration the circumstances which prevail at any given time and act according to our concepts and interests, added Shamir.

The prime minister noted that Israel supports the United States' struggle against the evil forces in the region and that the ties between Israel and the United States are close. We will do nothing to spoil these close relations, promised Shamir; however, the prime minister appealed to the U.S. Administration on the issue of the missile threat to Israel: The United States knows that in this crisis, we are particularly sensitive to what goes on in western Iraq, where strikes against Israel are launched. The U.S. Administration should take this fact into consideration, added Prime Minister Shamir.

Views U.S. Coordination, Home Front

TA2801230491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 2200 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated today that Israel would not surprise the United States and would do nothing without previously coordinating with it. Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the prime minister said that Iraq has been threatening to use far more dangerous weapons and that Israel is prepared for it. Replying to a question by our correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir, the prime minister said:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] In every war there are situations that must be endured, and then there are other situations. We may be in the endurance stage at the moment, but that does not mean that endurance is our policy. We are looking for a way to defend ourselves in the best possible way.

[Ahime'ir] Mr. Prime Minister, does coordination with the United States mean that Israel's hands are tied?

[Shamir] As the world stands today, there is no country whose hands are totally free in the international arena, particularly not in times of war. I would say that even the United States, the greatest world superpower, has its own constraints. We take into consideration the constraints we must.

[Ahime'ir] How do you perceive the home front conduct in view of the departure of many city dwellers in the Dan District from their places of residence?

[Shamir] I have nothing but praise for the home front. Our home front has been surprising in its strength, and in its courageous and outstanding endurance. I would not pass judgment on people moving from one city to another in Israel. There is nothing wrong with that; such things happen and they are natural. I would certainly denounce those leaving the country, but I would not pass judgment on those moving from one place to another within the country. On the other hand, I see that people are not complaining excessively, they are disciplined, they are not hysterical, and they heed the orders of Civil Defense personnel. I think we should be proud of our home front.

[Ahime'ir] Thank you very much. [end recording]

On 'Joint Strike Into Iraq'

TA2801183891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Israel and the United States have agreed in principle on a jointly coordinated strike into Iraq and are now deliberating on the form and the guidelines of such an attack. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir briefed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, where he also spoke of the Iraqi threats to use chemical warfare against Israel. David Ze'ev reports:

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said deliberations are continuing between Israel and the United States on the steps currently being taken against the Iraqi missile launchers and how Israel would get involved, putting into practice Jerusalem's often stated right to self-defense. The Israeli Government continues to follow its policy of self-restraint, but after the series of missile attacks on this country there are increasing fears that Saddam Husayn just might at some point launch missiles with chemical, not conventional warheads. [passage omitted]

Comments on Saddam's Threat

TA2801174591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Eli Nisan in Shamir's office on 28 January; in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles—recorded]

[Text] [Nisan] Mr. Prime Minister, does the danger that Saddam Husayn might shift to the use of nonconventional weapons against Israel not give rise to second thoughts regarding Israel's restrained policy?

[Shamir] First of all, there is no connection between the means and some policy. We believe that every threat, conventional or otherwise, should be removed. Still, there is no doubt that if Saddam Husayn goes one step further, in so doing he will place the entire international coalition fighting him in a new predicament. That body will then employ completely different measures to remove the threat that looms, not only before Israel, but before everyone. Naturally, this will likewise require some Israeli reaction. Israel will take a totally different view of such a threat.

[Nisan] Mr. Prime Minister, yesterday the cabinet mentioned red lines. What are Israel's red lines?

[Shamir] The defense minister's reply was just right. He said: Saddam Husayn has already crossed them. Red lines mean an attack on Israel, a missile attack. This is something we have never experienced before. That, too, constitutes a new stage.

We regret very much the tragedies that resulted from those attacks, the dead and injured, the damages. Yet we will survive it and even withstand other threats. They will not break us.

[Nisan] Mr. Shamir, the defense minister's remarks imply that Israel cannot exhaust its ability and strike at Iraq without coordination with the United States. Are we guaranteed such coordination?

[Shamir] Coordination is a two-way street, involving us and the United States in this specific case. Clearly, in the given situation, under the current circumstances, no activity of any value in the arena is possible without U.S. consent. We hope very much that when we act we will do so in coordination with our friend the United States.

[Nisan] Sir, according to Arab reports, the Scud missiles launched from Iraq toward Israel are stored in Jordan, on the Iraqi border, and are brought back to Iraq at night to be launched at Israel. If those reports prove correct, do you see Jordan getting involved in a war against Israel?

[Shamir] Those are rumors, which I hope prove false. If Jordan goes that far, however, naturally it will bear the consequences. Jordan knows all the ramifications of assuming such responsibility.

[Nisan] How do you view Jordan's current policy?

[Shamir] It has no policy; it is afraid and succumbs to the Iraqi threat; it has allowed itself to be dragged after Iraq far too much. Let us hope this ends soon and the shameful sight we are witnessing, in which a regime or an entire country toes the terrorist line set by this tyrant out of sheer fear, disappears.

Warns Iraq Against 'Dire Methods'

TA2801123591 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1145 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Knesset affairs correspondent Ze'ev Kohen at the Knesset on 28 January—recorded]

[Text] [Kohen] Mr. Prime Minister, the defense minister has said that Israel cannot exploit its potential to the fullest without coordinating with the United States. Can Israel carry out a surprise action?

[Shamir] I do not think that would benefit anyone. Israel can, but does not wish, to do things that would not be beneficial and that would not contribute toward eliminating the perils confronting us. Therefore, we will do everything under the prevailing conditions and in coordination with the United States.

[Kohen] Israel has acted with restraint, although some people contend that restraint can impair Israel's power of deterrence.

[Shamir] There is no connection; we have deterrent power, and everyone knows that Israel has means it can use if the need arises and if it is forced to do so. I do not know what restraint means, but if it means action in coordination with the United States, then we will pursue this course, and I do not think it can hurt our deterrent power whatsoever.

[Kohen] Former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that if things escalate, Israel should reconsider its policy. Do you agree? What does escalation mean?

[Shamir] Israel—and not only Israel—would certainly reconsider. The entire coalition confronting Iraq would reconsider this with utmost gravity and take every measure to remove this terrible peril, as leaders of various countries have already stated.

[Kohen] What does escalation mean to you?

[Shamir] Escalation means the use of even more dire methods.

[Kohen] To this very day, Saddam Husayn has done everything he threatened. And now he is threatening Israel with chemical weapons. What can you say?

[Shamir] Look, we knew he was trying to purchase these means, and even worse ones. It is not yet clear, not known for certain, whether he possess chemical weapons or not. He may and he may not have them, and if he does, he may resort to them. But if he does use them, he will put himself and his country at a very, very grave risk.

[Kohen] To conclude, are you satisfied with the progress of the Gulf war?

[Shamir] I am not satisfied with any war or the progress of a war. I want to see it end, and, God willing, this will happen very soon.

IDF Spokesman Details 28 Jan Missile Attack

TA2801200291

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew and Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1950 GMT on 28 January link up to carry a live telephone interview with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Spokesman Brigadier General Nahman Shay by anchorman David Gilbo'a on the 28 January Iraqi missile attack.

Shay says: "The main thing is that we have no information on any casualties. So far we have not been told of any casualties from tonight's attack." He recaps events, saying: "At around 2100 [1900 GMT] a siren was heard throughout the country following signs of an attack on Israeli territory. No Patriot missiles were fired at the target. As I said, following examinations, we have no information on casualties."

Shay did not disclose the number of missiles that had been fired, but says that the examination process "takes some time, and until we know for sure, it will be impossible to provide these details." He cautioned against a relaxed attitude toward safety measures, which some members of the public may have developed.

At 1957 GMT Shay reports that one or more missiles, carrying conventional warheads, struck Israel.

No Casualties Reported

TA2801221291 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 2200 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Excerpts] There were no casualties in today's Iraqi missile attack on Israel. The Israeli Army spokesman said that a Scud missile outfitted with a conventional warhead had been fired at Israel's central sector and its shrapnel dispersed over Arab locations on both sides of the Green Line. No real damage was reported, and no Patriot missiles were fired at the Scud. This was the

seventh Iraqi missile attack on Israel since the beginning of the war. [passage omitted]

Our army affairs correspondents report that, according to current assessments, there are still 10 to 15 mobile launchers in Iraq and missiles continue to be fired from some of them.

Spokesman Discusses Attack, Iraqi Threats

TA2901075891 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0645 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with Dani Nave, defense minister's media adviser, by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good day to you, Dani Nave. There are a few issues on the agenda this morning, but let us start with what you know or can tell us about the Scud missile attack yesterday.

[Nave] I believe that the lesson from yesterday's incident is moral rather than military, because where the missile fell proved that in the final analysis when aggression is undertaken, it does not distinguish between Jews and Arabs. We know clearly that large parts of this missile fell in the territories yesterday, and people who cheered Saddam Husayn might have fallen victim to his aggression. Luckily there were no casualties, but as we know already, casualties can and are inflicted when Scud missiles are fired. Yesterday's missile hit proved that Arabs, too, may be harmed, God forbid.

[Qital] Incidentally, this does not concern the territories only. A missile that falls on Tel Aviv, for example, may also harm Arabs, since many Arabs live in Yafo.

[Nave] Certainly. There are Arabs who live in Yafo, Haifa, and elsewhere. I did not hear of Israeli Arabs standing on the roofs of their houses to cheer Saddam Husayn, while this has happened in Judaea and Samaria. Residents there are reported to have stood on the roofs of their houses to cheer the missiles falling on Tel Aviv. Yesterday we saw that they, too, may, God forbid, be hurt as a result. This phenomenon of support for Saddam Husayn's aggression, the cheering of missiles falling on Tel Aviv, is very regrettable and sad. Still, the fall of the missile yesterday may lead to some soul searching among the Arab population in the territories.

[Qital] Another phenomenon recorded over the last 24 hours, which may be either encouraging or very worrisome, is the defection of Iraqi planes to Iran. This is encouraging if reference is to defection, since these planes will no longer be part of Saddam's war machine. Alternatively, though, this may be cause for deep concern if it is part of some sort of an Iranian-Iraqi trick and these planes will finally be turned against us or the United States.

[Nave] I believe that even if this is not a defection but rather an orderly transfer of planes, Saddam Husayn's need to transfer such a large number of his quality aircraft from Iraq to Iran cannot bode well for his condition. In any event, the transfer of Iraqi aircraft to Iran, despite the recent past and resulting bitterness between these two countries, will ultimately restrict these planes' freedom of action. Such a transfer, even if orderly, cannot be a good sign in terms of Saddam Husayn's condition, in my opinion.

[Qital] Another sign that may be indicative of Saddam Husayn's condition, albeit very indirect and unclear, is the interview with Peter Arnett [of CNN]. We have not seen or heard it in full yet, but we have heard some quotes, selective and censored ones, of course. What is your comment on Saddam Husayn's new threats and insinuations?

[Nave] Threats by Saddam Husayn are not new. The news here is that Husayn decided to grant an interview to a Western journalist after 12 or 13 days. A decision by Saddam Husayn to be interviewed at this time may be significant. It may point to a special effort on his part to demonstrate confidence, and this effort may be the result of a certain atmosphere in Iraq, the result of a possibly greater feeling of distress he may be experiencing. We all know that his interview was censored, so I would warn against rushing to conclusions about Husayn's calm appearance as reflected in this censored report from Baghdad.

[Qital] Does this interview not cause you additional worries?

[Nave] Worries exist and need not be augmented. They exist since we still live in the shadow of danger. Yesterday's missile did not cause harm, fortunately, but the danger is not yet past. We hear threats daily. Worries definitely exist, and we should still be aware of the various dangers involved and the possibility of Iraqi attempts to make good on their threats. So, it is unnecessary to increase the worries that exist and for which we are prepared.

Reports of Iraqi Gas Penetrating Masks Denied

TA2901083491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with IDF spokesman Nahman Shay by Tzvi Pantonovitz—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Pantonovitz] Brigadier Shay, there were reports yesterday—and these cause a lot of concern amongst our listeners—that Saddam claims to have some kind of gas which can penetrate the gas masks. What can you tell the public about this?

[Shay] It's nonsense, it's nonsense. These are a kind of a psychological warfare which is always part of a war, and we know it's nonsense. There is no gas like that, and people can be fully convinced that what we provided them—with which is the gas masks plus those sealed rooms and all those other instructions—will help and protect them in any case, in any emergency that may develop in the future.

[Pantonovitz] Brigadier Nahman Shay, thank you very much indeed. Shalom.

[Shay] Thank you very much.

No Shortage of Patriots; U.S. Soldiers Not To Stay

TA2901002691 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0000 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] There is no shortage of Patriot missiles in Israel notwithstanding the number of them used to date to intercept Scuds, Israeli Army spokesman Nahman Shay asserted this evening. He said that the Air Force is rapidly learning how to operate the Patriots and adapt them to our needs in cooperation with the Americans. The spokesman revealed that there are now Patriot batteries operated by Israelis, some operated by Americans, and yet others operated by joint crews. The plan is to gradually hand over the operation of the missiles to Israeli personnel and there is no intention of keeping U.S. soldiers in Israel, Shay said.

Moshe Arens Comments on Gulf-Related Issues

Iraqi Planes Fleeing to Iran

TA2901113591 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that all Iraq's Sukhoi-24 aircraft have fled to Iran, which means that the Iraqis are taking their quality aircraft out of their territory. These planes are capable of reaching Israel, and their removal greatly diminishes their military potential.

The defense minister further said that we are witnessing a process in which substantial damage is being inflicted on the Iraqi military infrastructure day and night; this process is very significant for Israel.

Minister Arens' remarks were reported by our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen.

Contingency Plans, Iran-Iraq Accord

TA2801124491 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] The defense minister said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has contingency plans if Israel is forced to intervene in the Gulf war. In a talk with our correspondent Karmela Menashe, Minister Arens said the U.S. Air Force is making an extensive day and night effort in west Iraq to neutralize Iraq's ability to launch missiles. There were hits, but the Americans have still not had total success. Saddam Husayn's capability has been weakened since the start of the war, but that is not enough for us, although there is no doubt that in the end he will admit defeat. The defense minister nevertheless stressed that we must not totally discount the possibility of a chemical warfare attack and we must be prepared for such an eventuality.

Referring to the Patriot missiles, the defense minister said that presently there are six batteries in Israel and that the Israeli crews are no less professional in operating them than their U.S. counterparts.

[Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Networks in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 28 January carries a recorded interview with Defense Minister Arens by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe, in which Arens is asked whether "the defection of the Iraqi aircraft to Iran can be a hoax." Arens replies: "I do not think this is a hoax. I do not doubt that the Iraqi aircraft in Iran lack the freedom of action which the Iraqi planes stationed at Iraqi airfields have. Even if a tacit agreement was achieved—and I do not know that one was—Saddam Husayn has no guarantee that when he wants to use the aircraft, he will be able to do so. The Iranians, even if they are willing to cooperate with Iraq—which I doubt—will be subject to American pressure not to allow Iraqi planes to take off from Iran's airstrips. Therefore, the transfer of Iraqi Air Force aircraft to Iran means a considerable weakening of the Iraqi Air Force, as well as a clear sign of distress."]

Levi Discusses U.S.-Initiated Peace Talks

TA2801182691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Address by Foreign Minister David Levi to members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations on 28 January; place not given, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...this war must bring in its wake a turning point. That change can be achieved. All the regional countries are currently dependent in every respect on the United States and what is known as the West. The time of East-West games is over and a new era has begun. The United States can force things because the Arab countries need the United States more than ever before and more than they need any other element. The United States, therefore, can force a discussion of peace without preconditions. I know that this notion is beginning to gain support, not only in the United States, which accepts this principle, but also in Europe. A new development and understanding for this demand are emerging.

New 'Strict' Civil Defense Regulations Implemented

TA2901101991

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 0805 GMT on 29 January reports that "the Civil Defense Command has decided that the Dan District and Haifa and its suburbs will be subject to strict regulations in the framework of the instructions for home front conduct in times of emergency."

The report continues: "Civilians in the defined areas will be advised to use public transportation rather than private cars to decrease traffic on the roads and reduce

the risk to the population. The Civil Defense Command instructions will be published in the framework of emergency regulations for extraordinary circumstances. The instructions will include a recommendation to civilians to carry on with their activities during the daytime."

A similar report on Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Networks in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 29 January adds that "from time to time, the Civil Defense Command may redefine the areas where strict regulations are enforced." The radio also says, "Emergency plants will continue working 24 hours a day."

The radio adds that the new Civil Defense Command regulations include a "protection package, which describes the steps each citizen is to take to protect himself, such as sealing a room, keeping the gas mask kit at hand, and listening to radio announcements." The report provides additional details on sealing rooms in public institutions and on conduct during an air raid alert.

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 29 January on page 5 publishes an announcement entitled: "Geographical Area Names Used in Announcements of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Spokesman." The announcement contains a map of Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip and is divided into sectors labeled by Hebrew letters spelled in Latin script.

The announcement states: "In specifying areas of Israel at times of aid raids/missile attacks, the spokesman of the Israel Defense Forces will refer to six geographical regions.

"Announcements will be made on the radio and TV.

"Region Alef: The Greater Dan area, the settlements in the region demarcated by Herzliyya, Kefar Sava, Petah Tiqva, Lod, Ramla, Rehovot, and Palmahim.

"Region Bet: Haifa and suburbs, including all the settlements in the region demarcated by 'Akko, Ahihud junction, Shefar'am, and 'Atlit.

"Region Gimel: the Jerusalem area, including the settlements in the region demarcated by Ramallah, Ma'ale Adumim, Bethlehem, and Abu-Ghawsh.

"Region Dalet: the northern region, including all the settlements north of the line, Hadera, Yizre'el junction, Bet She'an—excluding settlements in the Haifa and suburbs region.

"Region He: central area, including all the settlements south of the line, Hadera, Yizre'el junction, Bet She'an, and north of the line, Ashqelon, Qiryat Gat, Hebron, 'En Gedi, excluding the settlements of the Dan area and the Jerusalem area.

"Region Vav: southern region, including all the settlements south of the line, Ashqelon, Qiryat Gat, Hebron, 'En Gedi."

Alignment Faction Suppports Government Policy

TA2901095091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Report by Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir]

[Excerpts] The Alignment faction, the largest opposition faction, convened for its weekly session yesterday. Party Chairman Shim'on Peres reiterated his support for the government's policy of self-restraint. There are no disagreements on security issues these days, Peres emphasized. Yitzhaq Rabin, who wholeheartedly supports the government's policy, stressed during the meeting that as long as there is no escalation in the missile attacks, the policy should remain one of self-restraint.

It should also be pointed out that being in the opposition is difficult for any party, particularly one that decided to retire from power of its own free will, and as a result there are those in the Alignment who are having second thoughts. [passage omitted]

The Alignment faction is now voluntarily suspending its disagreements with the government, particularly in the economic and social spheres.

As for the left-wing opposition parties, they are deeply disappointed with the Palestinians and the PLO. This is especially true for several Knesset members [MK's] who made great efforts to achieve rapprochement between Israel and the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 29 January reports on page 10 that Hayim Hanegbi, secretary and spokesman of the Progressive List for Peace [PLP] faction, "resigned from his two positions yesterday in protest against the Gulf war stand of the one-man faction's MK, Muhammad Mi'ari. Hanegbi also resigned from the PLP's executive committee. He wrote Mi'ari: 'We are on opposing sides in this war. You support the Iraqi dictator. I long for his downfall'."]

On the other side of the political map, the right-wing Moledet faction firmly supports an Israeli reaction, although this firm support was not shared by MK Ya'ir Sprinzak. [passage omitted]

Knesset Approves Extra Funds for Defense Ministry

TA2801105991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jan 91 p A1

[Report by Tzvi Zrahya and Judy Maltz]

[Text] Yesterday the Knesset Finance Committee approved the transfer of 409 million shekels to the Defense Ministry from the state budget's general reserves.

Most of the sum is to cover war expenses, while 79 million shekels is meant to reinstate the cut in the defense budget approved in the second state budget for 1990.

It was agreed that a joint committee of the Knesset Finance Committee and the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee will debate the details of the supplementary budget for the Defense Ministry.

The Knesset Finance Committee approved increasing the budget for the Civil Administration in the territories by 35.7 million shekels for development and welfare in the territories.

Representatives of the Treasury and the Civil Administration pointed out that the amount is due to unexpected expenditures.

The committee approved the transfer of 7.7 million shekels from the reserves to the Health Ministry.

Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i returned yesterday earlier than planned from the United States, which he visited for several days on a fund-raising mission.

"The minister succeeded in getting things moving," Uri'el Ben-Hanan, his spokesman, said.

Tel Aviv Municipality Releases Property Damage Data

TA2801114991 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by Helen Kaye]

[Text] About 3,300 apartments and other buildings have been destroyed or damaged by missile hits or fragments in the greater Tel Aviv area since the first Iraqi Scud attack on January 18.

Figures released by Tel Aviv municipality reveal that 35 buildings must be razed and 1,747 apartments are damaged. Damage to about 440 was severe, to 750 medium, and to the rest, slight.

The Tel Aviv sports complex, eight schools, six kindergartens and four community centers in south Tel Aviv have been damaged to varying degrees.

In Ramat Gan, 1,600 apartments were hit and 11 will have to be pulled down. No details of damage were available.

Up to yesterday, 1,150 people have been housed in a dozen three-star hotels at an estimated cost of NIS [new Israeli shekels] 40,000 per night, said Me'ir Doron, deputy general manager of Tel Aviv municipality.

Municipal teams backed by teachers, social workers, psychologists and community center staff remain in the hotels round the clock to help the evacuees.

Within the next two weeks, about half of the families will be able to go back to homes repaired by the municipality, Doron said. Some will be home by this weekend.

The 100 or so families whose homes have been destroyed will be found rented apartments until their new homes are ready.

75 Percent Return to Tel Aviv Schools

TA2801113791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jan 91 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Excerpts] Most high school pupils went back to class yesterday after almost two weeks of unplanned vacation, and plans were finalized for younger pupils to study at home.

But the 10th, 11th and 12th graders did little work as pupils and teachers passed most of the day discussing the Gulf war and missile attacks and reviewing civil defense procedures.

In Tel Aviv only 75 percent of students returned to school but in most areas attendance was closer to 90 percent. In Jerusalem 80 percent of pupils went back to class.

Ministry officials were pleased with the turnout and hoped more would return as parents realized that schools are well prepared for a missile attack.

Several schools with classrooms not properly sealed stayed closed but are expected to open today. The municipality ordered Ramat Gan schools to remain shut.

"We will not take unnecessary risks, but we also want to return to the normal routine of life," said Education Minister Zvulun Hammer during a tour of Jerusalem high schools. "We must adapt to the situation and the circumstances," he said. [passage omitted]

The ministry ordered principals and teachers of elementary and junior high schools back to work tomorrow to prepare home study materials for their pupils.

The scheme will be based on Open University methods and details will be sent to teachers today.

Educational Television, Israel Radio and the newspapers will back the program. It should be operating by the end of this week or the beginning of next week, said ministry spokesman Yitzhaq Rath.

Starting tomorrow, children and parents can expect calls from teachers to tell them how the home-study program will work.

Number of Immigrants Down to 16,000 in January

TA2701231291 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 2200 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] There has been a reduction in the number of immigrants coming from the Soviet Union. The number of Soviet immigrants that arrived in Israel in January was approximately 16,000. This was reported to the Ministerial Committee on Aliyah. A similar number of immigrants is expected to arrive during February. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh was told that the

influx of immigrants had slackened because of the missile attacks, the difficulties in finding employment in Israel, and the cutback in the basket of services received by new immigrants.

Israeli Arab Press Against Anti-Iraq Coalition

TA2701114591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jan 91 p A5

[Report by 'Atallah Mansur]

[Text] The Arab press published in Israel is unanimous in expressing opposition to the allied bombing of Iraqi cities. The sole Arabic language daily, AL-ITTIHAD, which has recently resumed regular publication, repeats its "condemnation of the acts of aggression against the Iraqi people" every day and calls for a cease-fire and a return to the negotiating table.

The three major weeklies published in Nazareth assume an even stronger pro-Iraqi stand. The 25 January issues, the first published since the war broke out, are almost identical in their editorial line.

AL-SINARA, the most popular of the three, carries several articles attacking the United States and, in particular, its Arab allies. Two of the weekly's regular columnists attack Arab Knesset members who said they would be willing to support an Israeli retaliation if Iraq attacks Israel again. Veteran communist Saliba Hamis [name as published], who was expelled from his party, writes that these Knesset members "have lost their credibility."

KUL AL-ARAB, the weekly published by the al-Bustani advertising agency (a subsidiary of the Tel Aviv-based Ari'eli agency), has taken a more extreme anti-American stand. Among other things, it publishes abusive remarks against the Egyptian and Syrian presidents and cites quotations from the prophet Muhammad indicating that the anti-Iraqi coalition is going to experience a devastating defeat. "None of them will come out alive," KUL AL-ARAB states.

The weekly also carries an interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, the leader of the Islamic Movement, who attacks the Egyptian Muslim clergymen who support the war against Iraq. Darwish proposes that the countries of the Middle East prepare for regional unification.

Shaykh Darwish is also a signatory on an article published in the weekly AL-SIRAT, the Islamic Movement organ. The main points of the article include encouragement to his followers not to lose heart, because "victory will come from the hands of Allah." In any event, he promises that the Arab-Muslim nation will not surrender and will not kneel before George Bush, "even if we die and our homes are destroyed." AL-SIRAT's line is the most extreme. The newspaper calls the alliance "aggressive" and encourages "the Muslims and the Arabs" in their war against "the new crusade."

Territories Curfews Remain; Trials for Violators

TA2701120691

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 27 January carries a report by Jon Immanuel on page 10 saying that "a 30-year-old man from Bal'a, near Tulkarm, was killed three days ago, according to reports received yesterday. It was the first known internecine Palestinian killing since the war in the Gulf began."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 27 January on page 5 carries a report by Eytan Rabin and two reports by Yizhar Be'er on the situation in the territories. Eytan Rabin reports that "the general curfew imposed in the Gaza Strip when the war in the Gulf began has entered its 11th day. According to Army reports, 180 residents have been detained in that time for violating the curfew."

Covering the West Bank, Yizhar Be'er adds that "military sources have reported that since the war broke out, some 200 residents of the territories have been tried for violating the curfews and, in a process of summary trials, they were given prison terms of up to three months and fined."

Be'er reports that "many West Banks villages that are not on the main routes are not under the curfew imposed at the onset of the Gulf war. Residents of these villages are allowed to move freely in the villages, but are banned from traveling around the West Bank because of Army roadblocks." "Curfews in refugee camps and villages along the main routes have been observed in full." He adds that in some of the "remote villages, marches in support of Saddam Husayn were held over the weekend, but they were usually quiet." Be'er goes on to say that "military sources have claimed that the Army and the Civil Administration have been making every effort to allow residents of locations under curfew to obtain food supplies." The Army is also allowing "urgent medical assistance to be given wherever needed, and ambulances are also being allowed to travel during curfews."

In his second report, Yizhar Be'er states that "as of yesterday, the Civil Administration had distributed 25,000 gas masks in West Bank locations near the Green Line and around Jerusalem." The report adds that "for the time being, gas masks for children under 15 are not available in the territories" and that "military sources have confirmed that so far, gas masks have only been distributed to persons 15 years old and over. However, the Civil Administration has ordered such gas masks from a factory in Israel, and they will be distributed soon."

The report says that "over the weekend, detainees in the 'Ofer detention center near Ramallah were given gas masks," and adds that "tomorrow, the UN Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] will start providing 20,000 gas masks to Arab residents who work for the organization.

The Swedish Government has donated the 20,000 masks to UNRWA, and Israel has approved their distribution."

Palestinian Manifesto Urges Lifting General Curfew

TA2601143891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Palestinian trade unions in the territories today released a manifesto calling on the Israeli Government to lift the general curfew on the territories and to issue a decree banning the dismissal of Palestinian laborers who have not been absent from their jobs.

Our Arab affairs correspondent reports that in their manifesto the trade unions complain about a steep drop in their standard of living and broadening unemployment, and say that the population has incurred severe losses for which they receive no compensation. [passage omitted]

Rockets, Gunfire in South Lebanon Cause No Damage

TA2601112091 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1050 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Report by Hayim Hecht]

[Excerpt] At 0230 [0030 GMT] this morning, two katyusha rockets were fired from the outskirts of the al-Rashidiyah refugee camp, south of Tyre. They were fired from improvised launchers. One of the rockets exploded in midair over the heads of Fiji soldiers from the UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] contingent; the other, after traversing a distance of four km, landed in the Nepalese battalion area. No one was injured. It should be stressed that the katyushas did not land even close to the security zone.

Last night, a patrol of General Antoine Lahd's South Lebanese Army [SLA] was attacked with automatic gunfire near the south Lebanese township of Jazzin. No one was injured, and SLA troops returned the fire. [passage omitted]

AL-NAHAR Sees Israel as Beneficiary of Gulf War

TA2801154491 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 25 Jan 91 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "The Losses Are Arab...and the Gains Israeli!"]

[Text] While the Arab masses have become intoxicated with the victory that the Iraqi people, leadership, and army have achieved by withstanding the most powerful air force in the world, Israel, on the other hand, has begun to reap the financial and political benefits, and voices have risen in Washington with many promises. Some congressmen are calling for a commitment to Israel not to convene an international conference on Middle East problems. Other congressmen are calling for a commitment not to demand that Israel withdraw from the occupied territories. Other voices approve giving Israel U.S. financial assistance worth $13 billion over the next five years to compensate for the damages caused by the Gulf war and to help Israel absorb a million Soviet immigrants during that period.

Thus we see that Israel is reaping many benefits from the Gulf war in exchange for the restraint that the U.S. Administration has asked of Israel and for not responding to the Iraqi missile attacks. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger spent last week in Israel, not only to coordinate positions between his country and Israel, but also to draw up joint plans for the Gulf war and the post-war period. Moreover, the transfer of the U.S. Patriot missiles with their American teams reinforced the strategic alliance between the two countries. These antimissile missiles were airlifted from the NATO arsenal within a few hours.

Events in the Israeli arena and the U.S.-Israeli rapprochement require us to ponder a lot. The Palestinian people are still suffering from the commitment by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, adhered to by subsequent U.S. administrations. That commitment was a deal with Israel, following the war in October 1973, stipulating that the United States will not negotiate with the PLO!

While attention is focused on the war in the Gulf, Soviet immigration is continuing and more settlements are being established. Israel is obtaining large-scale U.S. aid as well as promises Israel had not dreamed of receiving in the past.

We are mentioning these matters so that the leaders of the Arab countries allied with the United States—Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria—become aware of them. Their foremost concern has become the elimination of the Iraqi regime and what it represents. They have forgotten, or forced themselves to forget, the basic problems that concern the Arab masses and the fateful issues they should not ignore.

Despite the present feverish atmosphere and the onrushing events, irrespective of the plots being hatched to undermine the Arab nation's existence and survival, no matter what results the Gulf war might produce, and regardless of their present position on this abominable war—the Arab leaders have a pan-Arab and historic responsibility. We call on those leaders not to be excited, angered, or happy about this catastrophe inflicted on our nation in the Gulf. Arab destiny is inseparable and Arab blood cannot be turned into water. Members of this nation grieve for the death of any Arab, be it Iraqi, Saudi Arabian, or Kuwaiti, because it is a loss for all of us. This sedition spread in our ranks because alien forces wished it to flare up. Wise men could have prevented it if the voice of reason had dominated over the voice of tribalism.

No one except the naive can bet on who will win the Gulf war. All of us are losers regardless of the outcome. The pan-Arab fabric of this nation has been torn, and a long period will have to pass before this wound heals and

everyt'hing returns to normal. Although our hearts are with the Iraqi people in their war against imperialism, we appeal to the leaders of Arab countries that are subservient to the West to respond to the voice of reason, draw up courage, and halt their support for this destructive war being waged against Iraq, the genuine Arab state, whose achievements make every Arab proud.

U.S. Saw Iraqi Invasion as 'Golden Opportunity'

TA2801112091 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 23 Jan 91 p 8

[Article by Sari Nusaybah: "Saddam Is Demolishing the Myth of War"]

[Text] The NATO countries formed an alliance after World War II in order to confront the communist danger and the other world superpower, the Soviet Union. American and Western funds and brains were employed to achieve this objective. The most sophisticated electronic devices were invented and missiles, antimissile missiles, naval fleets, and aircraft carriers were deployed. The Western world did all this only to find itself in 1989 without a "Satanic enemy" against which the war game could be practiced. The tools of military force and terrorism remained, but the "enemy" or "Satan" disappeared. This was the situation until August 1990, when the Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait.

At that moment, the war generals, the military strategists, and the manufacturers of war materiel in the United States were "aroused." They saw this invasion as a golden opportunity to test their materiel and theories in the field and stimulate their industries and profits. This was also compatible with a number of other interests, including the "obligation" to prevent the development of a Middle East military rival to America's premier ally, Israel. There was also the "obligation" to prevent the development of a unified Arab force in the Middle East's oil-producing region that would play an equal role in the oil business equation. Another "obligation" was to prevent Europe from gaining sole control of the Gulf's oil resources within the context of the European Community's prominence as an economic rival of the United States.

Hence, the United States began to utilize all its diplomatic and military efforts and potential in order to humiliate and destroy Iraq. A few days before zero hour this month, James Baker said tersely that President Saddam had formulated his political equation on the basis of miscalculations and that no option remained but that of "expelling" Saddam from Kuwaiti territory and totally destroying him.

This was the picture, and the brutal aggressive forces got together in order to launch the process of destruction by using the most modern and sophisticated tools of destruction and by employing tons of "roaring" explosives that exceeded even the atomic bomb over Hiroshima. The world woke up in the early hours of the day of aggression to listen to Western and Israeli military "experts" boasting that the main mission had ended in six hours, because Iraq's aerial and strategic capabilities had been wiped out, and that consequently the outcome of the battle had been decided.

Thus, with the aim of humiliating the Arab world and rubbing the Arab nose in the dust, the Gulf war was declared a six-hour war. The hours went by and the bombardment continued, and suddenly things turned upside down. It became clear that the one who "miscalculated" was not Saddam but the alliance. Then the "experts" and the analysts began to reassess their statements and calculations.

Yes, Saddam demolished this myth yesterday, when the war entered its sixth day and when it became clear that by advance planning, Saddam was able to absorb the aerial strikes against him and that he continues to preserve most of his forces. What a difference between the current state of events with Iraq and the state of events at that time when Israel, on its own, managed to destroy the combined Arab military force, particularly that of Syria and Egypt, within a few hours and dispossess them, as well as Jordan, of invaluable vast chunks of Arab lands within six days. Is this not reason to feel disgust and disappointment at the stance of the Egyptian and Syrian Governments?

We are not asking these governments to wage war on Israel, because we are calling for peace not war. We are also not asking them to alter their positions on the need for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, because our position, too, calls for this withdrawal on the basis of specific standards and conditions. But is it not the right of every genuine Arab throughout the Arab homeland who respects his honor and dignity to ask these governments to at least think of pulling their forces off the battlefield and returning them to their bases, or even demobilizing them completely?

Saudi Paper Claims Scud Missiles Hidden in Jordan

NC2801085991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0842 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Jan (MENA)—The Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has disclosed that there are depots for Iraqi Scud missiles inside Jordanian territory on the borders with Iraq. In today's edition, the paper cites informed diplomatic sources as saying that these missiles are transported at night to Iraqi territory in refrigerated trucks to conceal them from satellites monitoring the military operations theater.

Spokesman Denies Report

NC2801153691 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Jordan's official spokesman has denied a report published in the London-based Saudi paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT which claimed that Scud missiles are being transported at night from Jordan to Iraq aboard refrigerated trucks. The spokesman denounced the publication of such a fabricated report by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, which knows full well that such a thing is technically and practically impossible in an area that is under the intense scrutiny of satellites and other advanced surveillance methods.

Jordan has also strongly denounced the dissemination of this report over Saudi radio, as this entails a clear provocation against it, and will take the necessary measures to follow up on this matter with Saudi authorities through diplomatic channels.

Saudi Position Questioned

JN2901093291 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Jan 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Why This Instigation Against Jordan?"]

[Text] The so naively fabricated news published by the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT and carried by the official radio in Riyadh about Jordan's role in hitting Israel with Iraqi missiles arouses in us a sense of pity and regret for those who have lost sight of the right course and the wisdom of patience, and consequently, begun acting erratically and talking nonsense in a desperate bid to cover the faultiness of seeking the protection of foreigners as well as the scandal of placing themselves under the banner of the Crusader-colonialist alliance that is hostile to the deep-rooted aspirations of the sons of the Arab nation to freedom, unity, and salvation.

Hence, the constant campaigns by the official Saudi mass media against Jordan and its media are part of the instigation against the steadfastness of this lofty Arab fortress and also fall within the framework of current attempts to incite the forces of evil against Jordan, following a course of direct revenge against the patient, steadfast Jordanian people with the aim of imposing siege, isolation, and boycott on Jordan to get it to change its positions and convictions.

We preferred to rise above the level of all the accusations being leveled against us and we continued to adhere to reason and wisdom in dealing with differences among the brothers. Yet, some people, who have not understood the meaning of rising above the level of trivialities and polemics, are continuing their unjust campaigns against us as well as their miserable accusations against our political position and mass media to the point of direct instigation to strike at Jordan. Moreover, they are also calling on the Crusader-Zionist alliance to take revenge against us.

Since some brothers, whom God gave wealth more than wisdom, do not understand that Jordan's position cannot be bought or sold and that in this impregnable Islamic Arab fortress are men who fulfilled their promises to God, they should, while the gathering of infidels fails to achieve any of its premeditated goals against the nation's present and future, examine their conscience and resort to reason rather than passion for vengeance, in light of the Arab and Muslim state of affairs as a result of seeking the help of foreigners. This may stop the current slide toward the abyss, put an end to tampering with the fate of the entire Arab nation, and prevent history's severe judgment of those who have enabled the Crusaders, after 800 years, to return anew to the land of Arabism and Islam.

Foreign Minister Returns From Visit to Iran

NC2801181991 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and his accompanying delegation returned to Amman from Tehran this evening after a two-day official visit to Iran, during which he conveyed a message from His Majesty King Husayn to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Al-Masri Comments Visit

NC2801200491 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri returned to Amman this evening after a two-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, during which he conveyed a written message from His Majesty King Husayn to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and met with a number of senior Iranian officials. In a press statement, Mr. al-Masri said the Iranian president conveyed through him his warm greetings to His Majesty King Husayn and his desire for firm Jordanian-Iranian relations, especially in view of the serious dangers the region is facing.

He said he held talks with a number of Iranian officials, especially Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Thanks to God, he added, we opened new horizons for political and economic cooperation between the two countries. It was agreed, he said, that the two countries will keep in

touch and coordinate their activities on all levels, especially within the framework of the Islamic Conference Organization and the Nonaligned Movement.

There are good prospects for cooperation between Jordan and Iran, the minister said. Bilateral ties and various aspects of cooperation must be built gradually, he explained, adding that it was agreed to exchange visits as soon as possible. Mr. al-Masri said the Iranian position toward the Gulf war is known: Iran calls for the implementation of international legitimacy and does not want to see the scope of war expanded. It was agreed, he added, that we would make efforts bilaterally and with other parties to reach a cease-fire as soon as possible, so that political and diplomatic action can be given its full scope. The two countries are in agreement that this destructive war against an Arab and Muslim people must be stopped at all costs.

King Husayn Interviewed on Gulf Conflict

SK2901042691 Seoul MBC Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Interview with King Husayn by Chong Tong-yong, correspondent in Jordan; date not specified—recorded, in English]

[Text] [Chong Tong-yong] Did you think that war was inevitable, and was there any chance to avert war?

[King Husayn] I still have hope, somehow, it will be possible for people to rethink and maybe oppose, and the secession of hostilities will enable diplomacy to play its own to avert the disaster.

[Chong] Some analysts say that President [Saddam] Husayn will lose militarily. However, politically, he will win the United States. What is your opinion on that.

[Husayn] I believe that to personalize the issue has been the case. Probably wrong. If all of us lose, the world will lose. And, yet, as to who is to stand in judgment, maybe, generations long after we have gone can begin to understand the reasons and causes for all that has happened.

[Chong] Do you see Iraq stop attacking Israel sooner or later? Finally, will they use chemical weapons on Israel?

[Husayn] I honestly can't tell, but the position of Jordan is very, very clear. We are determined to prevent any violations of our territorial airspace to the best of our ability from any side in this conflict.

[Chong] How will you defend your country when Israel uses Jordanian airspace to retaliate Iraq?

[Husayn] Our forces are small, but we'll do our best to ensure that there are no violations. Regarding our airspace, we have neither methods nor means to stop any using them [as heard]. We are not going to permit any side to use our airspace and make this a battlefield, our country and our land, if we can possibly help it.

[Chong] Iraqi Scud missiles have passed the Jordanian airspace several times. Why didn't you respond?

[Husayn] How could we? We don't have Patriots or anything like them.

[Chong] [laughs] What is President Saddam Husayn's personality? Do you have anything to say to Saddam Husayn. If you do, what would that be?

[Husayn] That I have influence on the president of Iraq is totally untrue. I was very close to him and to the people of Iraq during a certain phase when Iraq, to my view, was defending, in point of fact, the entire region, including Kuwait. And, he has never told me anything he intended. What he did was seek my advice on many matters. And when finally the eruption broke through, the breakdown of the negotiations in Jiddah, and the military action that followed in regard to Kuwait, I tried my best to reverse the course. It is not certainly by Iraq but by, it seems, the desire by many to concentrate on the military as opposed to concentrating on the peaceful solution. This is unfortunate, and this is tragic.

[Chong] Thank you very much, indeed, Your Majesty.

[Husayn] Thank you.

King Receives French Envoy, Mitterrand Message

NC2801212291 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Francois Scheer, special envoy of French President Francois Mitterrand and secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry, at al-Nadwah Palace tonight. Scheer handed his majesty a message from President Mitterrand dealing with the French position on the Gulf crisis. During the meeting, both sides stressed the need for further consultation on the Gulf crisis and other Middle East topics.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the king's political adviser, the foreign and information ministers, and the French ambassador to Amman also attended the meeting.

Crown Prince Hasan Interviewed on Gulf War

PM2501140491 London ITV Network in English 2040 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan by correspondent Denis Tuohy; from the "This Week" program—date, place not given; recorded]

[Text] [Tuohy] Your Royal Highness, there are reports that many Jordians have actually welcomed the Iraqi missile attacks on Israel. How do you yourself regard them?

[Hassan] I am appalled by the extending civilian casualties. I watched the program earlier and saw the casualties in Tel Aviv, and indeed I watched the Palestinian families, some of which were reported as being jubilant

about this. Effectively, nobody can be jubilant about the loss of life, but at the same time I wish you had been able to see the report by CNN that had just come out, of similar scenes in Baghdad. We've been told again in the town of al-Falujah civilian casualties are mounting, so, I am afraid that no one is being spared in this. And I hope we get to a point where we can think of human beings and see through some of the political side of it.

[Tuohy] You wrote yourself recently in a newspaper article: We will not allow ourselves to act as a corridor for anyone—speaking, of course, for Jordan. Have you changed your mind, as far as missiles are concerned, or is it simply that there is nothing you can do about it?

[Hasan] We have not been able to do anything about Scud missiles, or indeed of missiles of any sort. We don't have the equipment to intercept. Even the Israelis had to turn to the Patriot, which is now American-manned on Israeli soil. We were deprived these missiles for some period of time—that is to say that nothing as sophisticated as a Scud, but even hand-held American-made missiles—largely because of the efficiency of the Israeli lobby in the United States. But clearly, as John Major said of Israel: It is indefensible that a noncombatant should be drawn into hostilities. And I think that applies more so to Jordan, which does not have sophisticated weaponry or means to deliver or even largly to protect civlian population, as you saw in the case of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

[Tuohy] What will be Jordan's reaction if and when Israel retaliates?

[Hasan] Well, you see, the point is that if the Israeli reaction is intended to draw Jordan in, then clearly our reaction would be to defend ourselves. We have no reason to believe that that is their sole option, and clearly at the present time, with round-the-clock allied bombardment of Iraq and tens of thousands of bombs, there is no reason, other than the morale factor and the political symbolism of it.

[Tuohy] There is criticism in the West of the king's stance in this conflict, although it is a stance that has won him a lot of popularity in Jordan. We've heard even of some congressmen saying aid should be cut off to Jordan. Is His Majesty playing the right diplomatic game on the world stage?

[Hasan] I think that the game, as you call it, of having sought a peaceful solution to this in the first 48 hours—with the knowledge of Western countries, and indeed of Arab countries involved—would have been right, in that it would have been successful if there would have been as much energy given to a diplomatic solution as there was to the military option. We received the secretary general of the United Nations here, and we have tried to facilitate every diplomatic initiative. And that is certainly in keeping with everything that we've done over 23 years of the Arab-Israeli conflict: to seek a negotiated settlement. Of course today you see this massive bombardment—and a result of what? The initial objective was the defense of Saudi Arabia, the restoration of Kuwait. Are the Iraqi people expected to pay for what is really a major military campaign on both sides?

[Tuohy] Does Jordan believe, by seeking to maintain this delicate and dangerous balance of policy—but precisely because of that, perhaps—Jordan may be able to initiate some kind of peace process?

[Hasan] I think at a given moment, if that ever came, it would be opportune. I think this has been our feeling over the last five months—to have a country with an independent and objective role. It was put to me, although it is a hypothetical, that Jordan can assist in the humanitarian role, and I was wondering, even on the question of POW's whether there is a role there for Jordan. I'm not suggesting anything here, because no one has asked us. But clearly, to have a middle ground position by Jordan could contribute—if this were ever possible—to healing wounds.

[Tuohy] How best do you think you take such an initiative? How might it be possible?

[Hasan] At the moment there are no political initiatives receiving any international attention. The organization, Islamic Conference, the Algerians, and the nonaligned have all asked for a cease-fire. That is to say, appeal to all sides to stop hostilities. But today, as the President of the United States has said, there is no pause, and clearly the other side also is equally determined to fight it out to the end.

[Tuohy] Do you think that Jordan can keep out of the war?

[Hasan] I think, clearly, that Jordan will do its utmost to continue to suffer the results of this crisis since the second of August. We are already affected by the occupation-annexation of Kuwait which we opposed, in terms of the increasing refugees; we are affected by the embargo; and we hope effectively that the international community will help us maintain our credibility in the middle ground.

U.S. Navy Stops Ship From Entering Al-'Aqabah

JN2901091091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Jan 91 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] Amman—Jordanian shipping sources have stated that the U.S. Navy in the Red Sea intercepted the ship Red Sea Energy in the Straits of Tiran and prevented it from entering the Port of al-'Aqabah. The sources said that the ship was carrying 350 containers of various goods for Jordanian merchants and importers to meet the needs of the local market.

The sources told AL-DUSTUR that the pirates had claimed that the ship's manifesto was not clear and that the containers were difficult to reach for inspection. The sources added that these allegations are unacceptable because the ship's cargo was clear and intended for Jordanian local consumption. [passage omitted]

Refugees Surge Across Reopened Iraqi Border

JN2901082891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—A flood of weary Gulf war refugees surged into Jordan when Iraq lifted a five-day closure of its border with the Kingdom Monday, but it appeared too early to judge whether the frontier would remain open for all those who wanted to leave the besieged country.

Witnesses and officials at Jordan's al-Ruwayshid border post in the northeast said over 1,000 people had come in by late afternoon Monday and that the flood was continuing.

"Crossings in and out of Iraq have been returned to normal as of this morning, and we are receiving people from the (Iraqi border post at) Tirbil," said an official at the border.

An overwhelming majority of those who arrived by midafternoon was of Jordanian nationality, while the rest included Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza, Syrians, Lebanese, Sudanese, a few Kuwaitis, Indians and other Asians, witnesses said.

"Most of them bore clear signs of having stayed at the border for days without proper food and shelter" said a witness.

The previously unannounced closure by the Iraqis of the Tirbil border Tuesday midnight caught several thousands people unawares at the desert checkpost, and the situation turned worse when Iraqi border officials insisted that all those who wished to leave the country should secure a special permission from the Ministry of Interior in Baghdad regardless of regular exit permits obtained earlier.

The Vietnamese ambassador to Iraq was among those turned back at the border earlier this week, sources said. The ambassador was earlier reported to be "missing in Iraq.

The Jordanian Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), in coordination with various other agencies, has been sending food and relief supplies, including blankets, across the border to those stranded there. But shelter against the cold winter was one of the major problems. The Iraqis allowed most women and children to remain within the building of the border authority offices, but others had to cuddle around campfires or seek refuge in their vehicles.

It was not clear by Monday evening whether the reopening of the border amounted to a blanket move to allow everyone out or limited to those already at the border who stood very little chance of getting back to the capital to obtain the required special permission.

Notably absent among the early arrivals were Egyptian nationals, but officials later explained that special buses were being sent to Tirbil from al-Ruwayshid to bring them in for immediate onward transport to the port of al-'Aqabah and a ferry trip across the Red Sea to Nuwaybi'. But there was no report by witnesses of any large-scale movement of empty buses to Tirbil by late Monday.

The transit of Egyptian nationals—the biggest expatriate community in Iraq with a pre-crisis strength of over 1.5 million—is handled under a special arrangement between the governments in Amman and Cairo.

According to a dispatch by the Associated Press from al-Ruwayshid, 15 Iranians were also among those arriving Monday. Earlier statistics from evacuee-transit camps in Jordan said another 11 Iranians remained in the Kingdom.

Most of the Iranian evacuees from Iraq are believed to be members of Mujahedeen-e Khalq—the main rebel movement opposed to the Tehran government who are leaving the region after Tehran and Baghdad agreed to make peace shortly after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August.

"We are Iranian refugees who have been in Iraq for the past few years and we are not requesting the Jordanian government and the United Nations to assist us to go to Europe," Mussa Mustafar, a self-described spokesman for the group which arrived Monday, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

Jordanian as well as international relief officials said Monday there was no way of even estimating the number of war refugees who might arrive in Jordan. Earlier accounts have mentioned figures between 1.5 million and two million, including possible civilian casualties in the war, but only about 13,000 have crossed into Jordan since Jan. 17, when the American-led allied forces unleashed a fierce air assault on Iraq and Kuwait.

"Worries over massive exodus of war refugees remain very strong," said a senior international relief agency official. "The situation will be clearer when the ground offensive starts."

According to the International Organization of Migration (IOM), the process of flying home evacuees home from Jordan against the backdrop of the suspension of regular airline flights to Amman got off with a good start Monday. Groups of Vietnamese and Thais were either in Egypt and on their way there across the Red Sea for flights home from Cairo. Over 600 Asians—Indians, Pakistanis and others are scheduled to be flown home from al-'Aqabah Tuesday. Charter flight were also scheduled for Sudanese evacuees.

Travel Abroad Eased; Syria Returns Travelers

JN2901085891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The government Monday eased restrictions imposed on travel abroad by government

employees and others and said that employees seconded to other countries and delegations on official business or those going on training courses and scholarships could leave the country.

According to a statement by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salim Masa'idah, those with contacts to work abroad or citizens holding valid residence permits in other countries could also leave, provided they were not required to do national service.

Masa'idah on Jan. 15 issued an order banning travel of government employees, doctors, pharmacists, male and female nurses, workers at bakeries and petrol stations unless they required special permits from the Ministry of Interior.

But as restrictions on travel eased for government employees, reports from the Syrian-Jordanian border said Monday that the Syrian authorities turned back most of the Jordanian travellers to Syria for the second day in a row.

Reuter news agency quoted official Jordanian sources as saying that nine out of 10 Jordanians trying to enter Syria through the border post of Dar'a were turned back without explanation following similar problems Sunday.

Freight was not affected.

The agency quoted Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din as saying that the border was not closed and Jordan was trying to find out why some people were being turned back.

The Syrian media had earlier reacted angrily to criticism from Jordanian parliamentarians and newspapers over Syria's policy with regard to the Gulf crisis. The banning of entry of Jordanians was believed by observers to be linked to this issue.

Saudi Arabia, the main ground base for allied forces in the Gulf, had banned Jordanians from entering after war broke out and told those leaving they would not be allowed to return.

Egypt Said To Reject Students' Applications

JN2801120891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—A responsible source at the Ministry of Higher Education has stated that the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has decided to reject all applications submitted by Jordanian students through the Jordanian Higher Education Ministry and the Jordanian Embassy cultural section in Cairo for study at Egyptian universities and institutes for the scholastic year 1990-1991.

The source attributed the Egyptian authorities' rejection to Jordan's disapproval of the American-NATO policy of aggression on sisterly Iraq. This Jordanian stance is in line with the clear policy Jordan and its wise leadership is adopting toward pan-Arab issues and the Arab nation's future.

The Egyptian authorities' measure will adversely affect the future of 200 students who waited for a long time in the hope of being accepted in Egyptian universities and institutes.

One Injured By Explosive Device Planted in Car

JN2901103991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—An 18-year-old girl from Amman was injured in the left leg when an explosive device planted in her car blew up as she was trying to start the engine.

A police statement said the girl was admitted to the al-Husayn Medical City for treatment, and investigations were underway.

The girl, Nancy Kamil Haddad, was described by hospital sources as being in satisfactory condition and resting Monday afternoon.

According to the police report, the explosive device went off at al-Jandawil district in the Wadi al-Sir area, west of Amman, but no further details were available late Monday.

Khaddam Notes Israeli 'Blackmail' in Gulf War

NC2801193491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1805 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 28 Jan (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received German Deputies Mrs. Vera Wellinburger and Mr. Christoph Matchi [names as received] at 1700 today. Mr. Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the People's Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee, and the German ambassador in Damascus also attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the importance of continuing to exert international pressure on Israel to implement the UN resolutions related to this conflict.

The vice president also spoke about Israel's blackmail of the Gulf war and the way some countries have hurried to extend aid to it, ignoring its refusal to implement the UN resolutions. This aid will create an obstacle to the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region, he said.

The conversation also dealt with the ongoing war in the Gulf and its dangers. The vice president reviewed the efforts Syria had exerted to spare the region, especially Iraq and the Gulf states, from this war.

He also discussed the letter sent by President Hafiz al-Asad to the Iraqi president as part of Syria's efforts to avert an outbreak of the war.

The vice president asserted that Syria is concerned about the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy to it. He also said that Syria is concerned about the unity of Iraq's territory and people, and that Syria is greatly pained by the extensive damage being done to Iraq and the Gulf states, which could have been avoided had the Iraqi Government responded to Arab and international initiatives and withdrawn from Kuwait prior to the outbreak of the war.

Minister Discusses Turkey's Role, Strategic Parity

NC2901144991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] In an interview with the Lebanese magazine AL-DIYAR, published today, Information Minister Muhammad Salman stressed that the magnitude of the devastating disaster on Iraq's people and resources is growing because of the Iraqi Government's persistence in adhering to the occupation of Kuwait. He added: In the final analysis, squandering any Arab capability will weaken the Arabs at a time when they are in dire need of attaining solidarity and moving together in order to deal with the changes in the world and their positive and negative consequences on the region, particularly the intense Jewish migration to the Israeli entity.

The minister emphasized Syria's rejection of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, saying: We will not ignore this invasion under any pretext. The pledge made by President Hafiz al-Asad to President Saddam Husayn—that Syria will fight at Iraq's side in the same trench if it is subjected to any aggression after the Iraqi troops withdraw from Kuwait—extended a hand of salvation to spare Iraq the catastrophe.

The minister also emphasized the rejection of any linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question, because the solution to the Palestine issue cannot be achieved by expelling the Arab people from Kuwait, canceling their entity, and erasing their national identity. He added: Firing a number of missiles at the Zionist entity does not aim at liberating Palestine, saving the intifadah from the Zionist oppression, or toppling occupation, but at dragging the Arabs into a major massacre. In the past, Saddam tried to entangle the Arabs in his false al-Qadisiyah [war against Iran] and gave Israel the justifications to pile up further weapons in its military arsenal and make political, financial, and moral extortion against the world states, as is the case now.

The minister held the Iraqi Government fully responsible for the disaster into which it is dragging Iraq and its consequences. He said: It would be enough for the Iraqi regime to hasten to announce its troops' withdrawal from Kuwait for the opportunity to be provided for the possibility of resolving the crisis and salvaging what is left of Iraq.

Regarding the mission of our troops in Saudi Arabia, the information minister said: According to the Cairo summit resolutions, the mission of our troops in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates is confined to defending the two sisterly countries. They were sent in response to the request of His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The role of these troops and field of action hinges on the developments and what the political and military leaders of the three countries decide.

The minister stressed that Syria supports Iraq's territorial integrity and that Tehran has also asserted that it is against any change of the geographical map of the Gulf region. He said that the recent talks of the Syria delegation under Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam with Iranian officials in Tehran have confirmed that the two countries agree on the need to preserve Iraqi territorial integrity, respect for international borders, and the non-partitioning of Iraq. He also said: This refutes the allegations made by some people to the effect that Syria and Iran have desires to partition Iraq or accept the attempt to sever parts of its territories.

The minister voiced hope that Turkey would not become involved in the ongoing war because expanding the war may lead to very serious consequences. The minister stressed the need to take advantage of the new international climate and to act to resolve our just issues on the basis of implementing the international resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Regarding the strategic parity which Syria endeavors to achieve vis-a-vis Israel, the minister said: The in-depth view of the concept of strategic parity remains a standing objective as long as our crucial issues have not yet been put on the path of just and comprehensive peace. The policy of individual adventurism, which led to the explosion of the situation in the Gulf, shows the importance of an [in-depth] view toward achieving parity and comprehensive pan-Arab action toward that end.

The information minister stressed that Israel's presence in the region has been connected to aggression against Arabs and expansion in their territories. Israel, he said, does not conceal its desire to set up its Toratic state from the Nile to the Euphrates. He added: The enemy leaders do not hesitate to practice all methods of military and financial extortion to implement their schemes. He wondered: Have the missiles of the Iraqi regime, which were fired to expand war and for propaganda reasons, not been the reason behind the Israeli entity's attainment of fresh billions [of dollars] and weapons under the pretext of courage and the human factor?

In conclusion, the information minister stressed that any effort to stop the war disaster must be primarily connected to the Iraqi Government agreeing to withdraw completely from Kuwait.

Al-Asad, Al-Hirawi Hold Phone Conversation

NC2601173391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi today held a telephone conversation during which they discussed issues of concern to both countries.

Islamic Organization Calls for Saddam's Overthrow

NC2501100091 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0910 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 25 Jan (SANA)—Shaykh Muhsin al-Husayni, spokesman for the Islamic Action Organization in Iraq, has declared that the regime of murderers in Baghdad has played all its cards and is now raising the banner of Arabism and Islam in an obvious losing game.

The Islamic Action Organization called on the Iraqi Army to withdraw from Kuwait and to pounce on the dictator who is ruling Baghdad.

Saddam Said Providing 'Free Service' to Israel

NC2701072691 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Under the headline "The Ruler of Iraq Is Providing a Free Service to the Nation's Enemies," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The new war of the Baghdad ruler has not yielded and will not yield anything but tragedy for Iraq and the nation. The evidence for this is the free U.S. and Western aid pouring into Israel, without their having to go through any trouble. It seems as though Saddam's war is serving Israel's aggressive and expansionist goals. Now, apart from receiving developed weapons, Israel is being granted huge sums of money to settle another 2 million Jews on our occupied Arab land. Therefore, Israel has realized its dreams beyond expectation without any losses.

AL-BA'TH adds: Palestine and the occupied Arab territories cannot be liberated through the occupation of Kuwait. The road to the liberation of Palestine is clear and the process of liberation from and confrontation of Israel has its own conditions and circumstances. It lies in rallying Arab potential, not in squandering it, as the Baghdad ruler does. This potential should then be utilized to serve the battle for liberation, not the goals or whims of this or that person. It also lies in coordination among the participants in the nation's real battle, because only a pan-Arab state can confront the Zionist enemy, especially since the struggle in the first place is a pan-Arab struggle of existence, not a struggle over borders.

AL-BA'TH says: Iraq was given many opportunities to participate in the nation's battle when leader President al-Asad personally took the initiative and tried to set up an eastern front. However, the Baghdad ruler refused: Rather than respond to thoughtfulness and wisdom then, he initiated a direct battle with the Islamic revolution in Iran. At the same time, he silenced all pan-Arab voices inside Iraq, which at that time hailed the pan-Arabization of the battle. Today, he has resumed what he started in his mad war with Iran by squandering Iraqi and Arab resources. [passage omitted]

Papers Comment on Gulf War, Iraqi Position

NC2601101691 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Only Way To Rescue Iraq," AL-BA'TH newspaper says: In light of Saddam Husayn's intransigence and his insistence on exposing Iraq to danger and gambling with his people, Army, and resources, the catastrophic war about which we had warned has entered its second week, without a glimmer of hope of stopping the death and destruction brought on by Baghdad's ruler, who placed Iraq in confrontation with the entire world. Iraq's ruler wants to destroy and burn everything. The paper adds: Strangely, after dragging Iraq into disasters and catastrophes, he attempts to cover up his crime by claiming that he is fighting against foreign hegemony. Saddam says he wants to drive out the foreign forces, but is he really fighting to achieve this or is he fighting to destroy Iraq to serve the aims of Israel and Zionism and the ambitions of foreign colonialists?

The paper continues: Syria has offered very great sacrifices to bring about the withdrawal of foreign forces from

the region. Anyone who refers to President Hafiz al-Asad's historic address at the emergency Arab summit in Cairo a few days after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait will see that this Arab leader addressed a sincere appeal to Iraq's rulers for cooperation so that the foreign forces would leave the Gulf and the reason for their presence would be removed.

The paper concludes: The removal of the foreign presence from the region begins with an Iraqi resolution to withdraw from Kuwait. Once this is done, the process of rescuing Kuwait will have started, as will the process of withdrawing the foreign forces. Syria will be at the forefront of any Arab action to rescue Iraq, ensure the withdrawal of the foreign forces, and establish an Arab security system that will guarantee security and peace for all Arabs, build confidence among them, and steer their power and capabilities toward the real battle with the enemy of the Arab nation.

Commenting on the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says: No doubt, Iraq is in danger and its leader's future is uncertain. Where will Iraq's ruler go in such circumstances and with such insistence on prolonging the crime? Since the first moment of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Syria warned against the hazards of being dragged into this sinful mistake, raised its voice, and tolled the warning bell. It issued warnings and more than once stressed the need for caution, out of concern for Iraq and the nation. This was done because Iraq's interests are part of the nation's interests and because the nation's interests are above all other interests. However, by shutting all doors and closing all windows to all Arab and international initiatives, Baghdad's rulers condemned the sincere nationalist appeal to failure. Their arrogance, vanity, and selfishnesses eclipsed all other considerations and drowned out the voice of reason, right, and conscience. They themselves chose the path of suicide and death and brought about this catastrophic situation. How long will Iraq's dark night last? Is there a savior for the wounded people?

Under the headline "Israel Is the Greatest Beneficiary," TISHRIN says: All observers agree that Israel has been the main beneficiary of the Gulf war. Military and financial assistance has been pouring into Israel from Western countries and everyone is rushing to help it and expressing sympathy with it. The reason for this state of affairs is that Iraq fired a few worthless missiles at the enemy's cities. The paper adds: Israel has acquired Patriot missile systems from the United States and several Western countries have also offered their systems to the Zionist entity. Israel has asked for additional American assistance amounting to $13 billion. Assistance is thus pouring into Israel as a result of blatant extortion. As for Palestine, it has disappeared completely from the stage. Moreover, the world has forgotten the Palestinian cause and the Zionists' measures in the occupied Arab territories because it has been preoccupied with the Gulf war.

The paper continues: So far, the Arabs have reaped the bitter and costly fruit of a war that could have been averted had the Baghdad government responded to the voice of reason, to the call of conscience and duty, and to leader al-Asad's historic message. Iraq is being subjected to destruction, while the Palestinian cause, which the Baghdad rulers use as a pretext to continue their occupation of Kuwait, has suffered the most serious and hardest of blows. Liberation of the occupied territories requires concentrating energies, not squandering them. What is happening is squandering and exhausting energies and destroying Iraq's capabilities in a horrible manner.

The paper concludes: Even the most unsophisticated people agree that the only way to contain the catastrophe is to implement the Security Council resolutions in a way that will give Kuwait back its freedom and sovereignty.

Opposition Demands Troops' Withdrawal From Gulf

NC2901082691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jan (INA)—The Syrian opposition parties have expressed full support for Iraq in its steadfastness against the tyrant American-Zionist-NATO aggression. AFP cites an informed Syrian source in Paris as saying that the Democratic Nationalist Grouping, which embraces a number of Syrian opposition parties, has issued a statement in Damascus demanding from the Hafiz al-Asad regime that it pull out the troops al-Asad sent to the Gulf.

Afghanistan

Government Offers 'Strong Objection' to Gulf War

LD1901163791 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Kabul, 19 Jan (BAKHTAR)—The war in the Gulf takes on dangerous and broader dimensions. This war, which is being waged fiercely and with unprecedented dimensions against the interests of peace and security of the region and world, is of grave concern to all humanity, including the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

From the start of the hostility in the Gulf, the government of the Republic of Afghanistan has expressed its strong objection to every military confrontation and solution of the issues by force. The government of the Republic of Afghanistan believes that under present world circumstances and in the new international atmosphere, where rationality and understanding take the place of confrontation and war, no place is left for the use of force and the solution of issues by war.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan believes that war is not a logical way to the solution of Gulf issues, but rather involves dangerous consequences and further complicates the solution of international issues—in particular Middle East issues.

During the past 12 years of destructive war in their country, the people of Afghanistan perceived very well that the issues cannot be solved by war. In our view, the destructive war in the Gulf will produces no other result except to bring a destabilization [words indistinct] in this sensitive region of the world, the destruction of the region's wealth, and the massacre of thousands of innocent people.

The government and people of the Republic of Afghanistan resolutely call for ending this destructive war as soon as possible, and as quickly as possible. We believe that the opportunity for a peaceful solution to the Gulf issue has not yet been totally lost. We ask all belligerent parties to give up war before it is too late, and before the region is completely soiled with blood. Do not let the dimensions of this dreadful war be extended further, or the peace and security of the world and region will be further endangered.

BAKHTAR Commentary Calls for End to War

LD2201101591 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0425 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 21, BAKHTAR—A BAKHTAR commentator writes, the recent statement of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] state on the terrible war in Gulf published by the country's mass media, is the reflector of the fact that the RA state is seriously against any kind of war and bloody hostilities which bring about nothing except calamities and killings. Besides it strongly rejects military solution of issues.

The commentator while quoting the government statement says "from the very beginning of starting hostilities in Gulf, the RA state expressed its serious opposition with any kind of military approach and solving issues through force.

"The RA state and people urgently demand that the Gulf war be ended as soon as possible, because we are sure that still opportunity for putting an end to the war are at hand. We request all warring sides to avoid war and not allow the war to be expanded."

This principled position of the RA state vividly proves that in present-day world conditions in which a climate of cooperation and understanding have been created in international relations. So the RA state and people are concern on creation of dis-instability in the Gulf region, killings of thousands of innocent people and destruction the properties of these important region of the globe, that's why the RA state wants the immediate cessation of war. [paragraph as received]

While quoting the recent statement of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, he states that "new developments at the world level, ending of cold war in international relations require that world various countries should review their foreign policies and diplomacy based on principles of peaceful co-existence."

These expressions explicitly prove the position adopted by the RA state emanates from the national reconciliation policy vis-a-vis the Gulf war. The RA state by pursuance of the policy of national reconciliation is in favour, in national and international levels, of peaceful co-existence and solution of issues through peaceful means. The Gulf war should be immediately stopped, prior to its destruction and killing of thousands of people, so it's the responsibility of international community to do their utmost for ending the terrible Gulf war.

Bangladesh

Government 'Deeply' Regrets Outbreak of Gulf War

BK1701134091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Bangladesh has deeply regretted the outbreak of war in the Gulf and expressed its earnest hope that all sides concerned would try their utmost to avoid the civilian targets, foreign office spokesman said in Dhaka on Thursday. Dhaka also urged the warring countries to bring the war to an immediate end following achievement of the objectives set forth by the UN Security Council resolution on Kuwait.

Nation's Saudi Arabia Military Contingent 'Safe'

BK2801134091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] The last report coming from Saudi Arabia says the officers and soldiers of Bangladesh contingent in Saudi

Arabia are safe and sound. ISPR [Interservice Public Relations] sources say the Army headquarters is continuing to maintain constant contact with them in Saudi Arabia.

First Anti-U.S. Strike Affects Dhaka Commuters

BK2801044591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0440 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 28 (AFP)—Commuters suffered as a half-day anti-American general strike took affect in the Bangladesh capital Monday with traffic lighter than usual on the roads.

The Bangladesh Seerat mission and the Council of Islamic Revolutionaries of Bangladesh, both fundamentalist moslem groups, called the strike to protest against the "United States and Zionist forces" now fighting Iraq in the Gulf.

The groups were also demanding that the 2,300 Bangladeshi troops stationed in Dharan, Saudi Arabia on the side of the U.S.-led coalition forces be brought back home immediately.

It was the first strike against the United States since the Gulf war broke out January 17, and also the first in the capital since Bangladesh's interim government of acting president Shahabuddin Ahmed took over December 6 from ousted president Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Rallies and marches in favour of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and against the U.S. have been staged across predominantly Moslem Bangladesh almost daily.

Some shops were closed and many public buses were not operating because of the stoppage, forcing many commuters to wait hours for the few taxis operating. Pedal-driven trishaws were, however, running normally.

The Dhaka Government has backed all United Nations resolutions against Iraq and has repeatedly called for Iraq's unconditional and immediate withdrawal from invaded Kuwait.

Police File Third Ershad Corruption Case

BK2601165691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1645 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 26 (AFP)—Police here Saturday filed a third case of corruption against deposed Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad for his alleged involvement in a 50 million-dollar deal involving British-made ATP planes.

The anti-corruption bureau registered the case implicating Mr. Ershad and four of his ministers and officials in the controversial purchase of the three advanced turbo-prop planes last year.

The four—former Ministers A.H.M. Gaffar and Ziauddin Ahmed who both held civil aviation portfolios, ousted Biman Bangladesh Airlines chief Shaukatul Islam and former Industry Secretary Mosharraf Hossain—were alleged to have purchased the planes at the personal directive of Mr. Ershad.

The deal, involving alleged kickbacks to the four officials, reportedly resulted in a 8.46 million-dollar loss to the state treasury.

Mr. Gaffar and Mr. Ahmed are among 10 former ministers who went into hiding after Mr. Ershad's resignation in December.

A court here has issued warrants for the arrest of the 10 and called on them to give themselves up or face conviction in absentia and confiscation of property under the rigorous Special Powers Act of 1974.

Two of the three ATP planes ordered during the former president's state visit to Britain two years ago, were grounded early this month and were withdrawn from domestic flights following reported mechanical troubles.

The third one has yet to be delivered, officials said, adding the authorities were considering ways to dispose off the planes.

Two of the 10 fugitive ministers—Kazi Firoze Rashid and Ruhul Amin Hawladar—were arrested Saturday and taken to Dhaka's high security central jail, police said.

Mr. Ershad and his wife were arrested following his December 6 resignation in the face of mass protests against his eight-year-old regime. Mr. Ershad, who came to power in a 1982 bloodless coup, already faces two other charges of corruption and abuse of power.

Student Leaders Demand Ershad Transfer to Jail

BK2801160891 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] A seven-member delegation of the All College Students Unity [ACSU] led by ACSU General Secretary (Khairul Kabir Salman) called on the acting president in Dhaka this evening. The ACSU leaders demanded that ex-Presidsent Ershad should be immediately shifted to the Dhaka Central Jail and treated as an ordinary prisoner allowing no special privileges after the submission of charge sheets on specific cases. They (?brought forward) their problems to the attention of the acting president.

2 More 'Absconding' Former Ministers Arrested

BK2601162791 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The Dhaka Metropolitan Police have arrested another two absconding former ministers. They are Ruhul Amin Howaldar and Qazi Feroz Rashid. The police arrested them today from the Dhaka city and sent them to Dhaka Central Jail where they have been given detention for 120 days under the Special Powers Act of 1974.

India

Muslims Stage Anti-U.S., Pro-Saddam Rallies

BK2601005891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1922 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 25 (AFP)—Hundreds of Moslems took to the streets and burnt effigies of U.S. President George Bush in at least three Indian towns Friday to protest military action against Iraq.

Some 1,000 Moslems carrying placards reading "Saddam, the Lion of the Desert" and "Saddam, Use Chemical Weapons Against Israel," marched after Friday prayers in the towns of Bangalore and Bidar in the southern state of Karnataka, police said.

In Calcutta, similar protestors burnt the U.S. and French flags, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Meanwhile, the Jewish community in Bombay sought police protection Friday for their five synagogues in the city which they feared might come under attack, a separate PTI dispatch said.

The call for police protection was prompted by an attack on the 19th century Ohel David synagogue in the nearby town of Pune, PTI quoted a Jewish spokesmen as saying.

Hebrew scriptures were allegedly set on fire and the building was damaged in the Pune incident, PTI said.

Rallies Outside Embassies in New Delhi Banned

BK2601162891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1247 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 26 (AFP)—Police Saturday announced a 30-day ban on demonstrations outside diplomatic missions in the Indian capital.

The action was prompted by fears that such protests might strain India's relations with nations involved in the Gulf war, a police statement said.

It spoke of intelligence reports of fresh anti-war protests being planned in the coming days which might also endanger "human safety."

The ban follows protests outside U.S. diplomatic missions after the Gulf war broke out January 17.

Iraq Protests U.S. Forces Refuelling in Bombay

BK2901055491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0434 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 29 (AFP)—Iraq has protested against India's decision to allow U.S. Air Force transport planes en route between the Philippines and the Gulf to refuel in Bombay, the Iraqi ambassador here said Tuesday.

"It is something unfortunate. This is unjustified," 'Abd al-Wadud said, referring to New Delhi's admission Monday that it had been quietly allowing the refuelling under an agreement with Washington.

"The friendly government of India should have considered that the American Air Force planes are bombing Iraq day and night," Mr. al-Wadud said in a telephone interview.

"They should not be given such facilities from a friendly country like India," he said, and added that he had lodged a formal protest with the Indian External Affairs Ministry.

Mr. al-Wadud did not say when he lodged the protest, or how Indian officials responded.

The ambassador added that he expected India to stop immediately "any kind of help to the attackers" of Iraq.

The report of the daily refuelling in Bombay of U.S. Air Force C-141 Starlifter transports since January 9 was carried by THE TIMES OF INDIA Monday, sparking an instant and indignant reaction from political parties here.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the U.S. Government had assured India that all supplies carried in the planes were non-lethal.

"In keeping with our friendly bilateral relations with the United States, we have allowed the transit of U.S. Air Force transport aircraft through Bombay," the spokesman said late Monday.

"These facilities were granted for the purpose of carrying non-lethal supplies including medicines and for (the) evacuation of personnel on medical, humanitarian and emergency grounds," he said.

The spokesman added that Washington had agreed to reimburse India in kind for the fuel, but refused comment when reporters asked him whether India's neutral posture in the Gulf war had been compromised. He also did not say whether India was being allowed to inspect the aircraft.

The times report said a total of 38 C-141 Starlifters had refuelled in an "around the clock" operation which began January 9 before the launching of Operation Desert Storm following a request from the U.S. Embassy in India.

The report of refuelling drew sharp reactions from former Premier Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, whose legislative backing is vital for the government of Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, and the major leftist groups.

"The minority government (of Mr. Shekhar) has no right to deviate from India's consistent and principle-based policy," Congress (I)'s chief spokesman V.N. Gadgil said.

It was the first time the congress had used the term "minority government" to describe Mr. Shekhar's two-month-old ministry.

"If the news is true, it is an unmitigated crime against the nation and the people of India and this government must go lock, stock and barrel," added K.K. Tiwari, another Congress (I) leader and a former federal minister.

India's main leftist parties, including the Communist Party of India and the Communist Party of India (Marxist), asked the government to "immediately stop" the refuelling, saying it was in "gross violation of the people's mandate."

India, once a close ally of Iraq, has condemned Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait, but has repeatedly called for a negotiated settlement to the war. India has not sent troops to either Saudi Arabia or Iraq.

Delhi Confirms Protest

BK2901130491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Iraq has lodged a protest with India for allowing refueling facilities to American military transport planes at Bombay airport. The Iraqi Ambassador in India, Dr. 'Abd al-Wadud al-Shaykhali, met a senior official of the external affairs ministry last evening in New Delhi to lodge the complaint. Dr. al-Shaykhali said the grant of facility for refueling was unacceptable to Iraq in view of its friendly relations with India. A spokesman of the external affairs ministry clarified yesterday that refueling facilities were granted to the U.S. aircraft carrying nonlethal cargo, including medical supplies and for evacuation of personnel on medical and humanitarian grounds.

The Congress-I, the Janata Dal, and the left parties have criticized the government's decision.

Environmentalist on Local Impact of Oil Slick

BK2801075191 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Environmental experts in the country have expressed apprehension that if the spread of oil slick is not checked now, it can have adverse effect on the Indian environment. Our correspondent, Upma Bhatnagar, spoke to Professor C.K. Vashnev of the Jawahar Lal Nehru's School of Environment Sciences about the possible fallout of the Gulf oil spill on Indian environment:

[Begin recording] [Upma] Do you think it [Gulf oil slick] will have an impact on the Indian environment.

[Vashnev] The consequence [words indistinct]. It is very difficult to precisely specify implications of such oil slick on the Indian environment, but certainly over a long run it will have serious implications. At a current rate the oil slick is moving at a rate of 20 to 40 km, and it will take about 40 to 60 days to emerge out of the Gulf of Oman. And, if this happens and if the oil slick continues at the present rate, then there is every chance that Arabian Sea will suffer from the pollution of coal tar balls which are likely to be deposited on Indian coasts. But, this is very speculative at this stage, because we do not know what kind of treatment between now and in the coming days we will be able to provide to contain the oil spill. [end recording]

Two Iraqi Passenger Aircraft Stranded

BK1801161891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1554 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 18 (AFP)—Two Iraq Airlines jumbo jets are stranded here after bringing in Indian workers on chartered flights from Baghdad three days ago, official airport sources said Friday.

The two jets which landed at Indira Gandhi International Airport on Tuesday have been parked without refuelling because they have no place to go, the sources said.

They had brought back some 700 Indian construction workers on flights chartered by Air India, the sources said, adding that the pilots had made no application for permission to take off.

"Where will they go from here," said an official, referring to the waves of aerial attacks on Iraqi airstrips by the U.S.-led multinational force in the Gulf.

They said the two planes would have to indicate their flight plans before taking off for a new destination.

The whereabouts of the crews of the two planes was not known.

All Indians in Iraq, Saudi Arabia Reported Safe

BK2801160791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] All Indians in Iraq are safe. This was stated by the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi today. Speaking to newsmen, he said the government is trying to arrange for the exit of about 800 Indians who are still there. The spokesman said inquiries from the chief executives of various companies in Saudi Arabia also indicate that all Indians are safe there.

Meanwhile, 55 personnel of Indian Railways Construction Company, along with 15 employees of its associate companies, have arrived at Qasr-i-Shirin in Iran.

Ships Allowed To Resume Loading Iranian Oil

BK2101162491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] The government has permitted the Shipping Corporation to resume lifting of Iranian crude oil from (?certain) ports in the Persian Gulf. According to official sources in New Delhi, the decision was taken at a

high-level meeting between the Ministries of Defense, Petroleum, and Transport. India and many other countries had withdrawn their vessels from the area following the outbreak of the Gulf war last week.

Shukla on Sri Lankan Tamil Issue, Gulf Crisis

BK2801151691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, has said that the Indian Government would like to have a fresh look at the Sri Lankan Tamil problem. Speaking to newsmen at Madurai this evening on his way to Colombo, he said New Delhi is having some new thoughts on this matter. He said that he had discussed with the Tamil Nadu chief minister the substance of the new proposals. Referring to the problems and events in Sri Lanka, the minister said that he was fully aware of the situation and the chain of events has been tragic. It has to be settled as quickly as possible, he added. Mr. Shukla said other bilateral issues, Gulf situation, and follow- up of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] meeting will form the part of the discussions he is going to have with the Sri Lankan leaders.

Regarding Gulf problem, the minister said NAM [Nonaligned Movement] is to devise a package of action which will be discussed early next month at Belgrade. The deteriorating Gulf situation would have the effect on the South Asian region, he added.

Referring to his visit to Beijing, the minister said he is looking forward to his talks with the Chinese leaders.

External Minister To Visit Sri Lanka, Beijing

BK2701162491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, is leaving New Delhi tomorrow for a three-day visit to Sri Lanka. According to official sources, Mr. Shukla will reiterate New Delhi's view during his talks with Sri Lankan leaders that a lasting solution to the ethnic problem in Sri lanka is possible only through a dialogue. India hopes that all efforts will be made to renew the dialogue following the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's] offer for talks and Colombo's positive response to it. Both sides have kept the agenda open to enable them to have a frank discussion on various issues.

After his talks in Colombo, the external affairs minister is scheduled to go to Beijing.

Departs 28 Jan

BK2801100291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, left New Delhi this morning for Sri Lanka and China. Mr. Shukla, who is accompanied by the foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, will be in Colombo for three days. He will leave for Beijing on Friday [1 February].

Pakistan Nuclear Test Ban Proposal Rejected

BK1201010291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1716 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 11 (AFP)—India has again rejected a Pakistani proposal for a regional nuclear test ban treaty with Pakistan on the grounds that any nuclear ban must be global.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said here Friday that India believed the nuclear issue should be tackled "in a global framework".

"We don't accept the contention that it can be dealt with in a bilateral or South Asian regional context," he said.

Pakistan's representative at the United Nations had repeated his government's stand that Islamabad was ready to sign a joint declaration with New Delhi renouncing the acquisition or manufacture of nuclear weapons, and to conclude a mutual inspection of nuclear facilities agreement.

India first exploded a nuclear device in 1974, but said it was committed to peaceful use of atomic energy, and experts say Pakistan, with which India has fought three wars, perfected a nuclear device last year.

On the same grounds India has refused to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, calling it "discriminatory."

Maldives President Arrives 25 Jan on Visit

To Discuss Regional Issues

BK2501095791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Jan91

[Text] The president of Maldives, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, arrived in New Delhi today on a three-day state visit to the country. The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman; the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar; and his cabinet colleagues received him at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] where he was presented an inter-services guard of honor. The Maldives president, who is the current chairman of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation—SAARC, will be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade.

Speaking to newsmen, Mr. Gayoom said he will be discussing with the Indian leaders bilateral, regional, and international issues, including the Gulf conflict.

The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the SAARC nations want immediate cease-fire in the Gulf and we are taking initiative in that direction.

Given Ceremonial Send Off

BK2701080591 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] The president of Maldives, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, was given a ceremonial send off today after his three-day state visit to the capital. The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, were among those present at the Rashtrapati Bhawan [President House] to see him off.

Speaking to newsmen, the Maldives president said all possible steps should be taken to bring an immediate end to the Gulf War which is causing great human misery and destruction.

Shekhar Visits Punjab, Repeats Talk Offer

BK2801164891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister has said the government's offer for talks should not be construed as its weakness on Punjab policy. Addressing a largely attended public meeting at Thuduke village in Faridkot District of Punjab this afternoon, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the government is very clear that a solution can be found only through talks and by restoring confidence among the people. Assuring all those criticizing that there is no plan on Punjab, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the government is fully conscious of its responsibilities. He said while doors are open to any one who comes forward for talks on Punjab, there will be no compromise on unity and integrity of the nation and the constitution will be always be upheld. The meeting was organized to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Sher-i-Punjab [lion of Punjab], Lala Lajpat Rai. Paying rich tributes, the prime minister called upon the people to emulate the spirit of courage and compassion showed by Lala Lajpat Rai and other valiant partiots—Shahid Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru, and Chandra Shekhar Azad—who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country. Others who addressed the public meeting included the Andhra Pradesh governor, Mr. Krishna Kant, who is also chairman of Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial Trust; the Punjab governor, General Malhotra; Mr. Indrajit Gupta, CPI [Communist Party of India]; Mr. I.K. Gujral, Janata Dal; Mr. Bal Ram Jakhar, Congress-I; Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]; Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]; and the minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant. They said the people of Punjab should unitedly make efforts to solve the state's problems and put an end to violence. The prime minister presented a shawl to the 60-year-old grand daughter of Lala Lajpat Rai, Ms. Shanta Aggarwal.

Earlier, talking to newsmen, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said government will take every possible step to instill confidence among the people and to ensure that the writ of the government prevails. In reply to a question regarding talks with militants, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said it is not possible for the government to send any formal invitation to them as it is not known who to invite. He said the government has been appealing to them through the media to come forward for talks as violence leads nowhere and a peaceful solution can be found only through a dialogue. Mr. Chandra Shekhar and other leaders paid floral tributes at the birth memorial of Lala Lajpat Rai and stood in silence for a while. They also planted saplings. All India Radio special correspondent, Ratan Salve, who accompanied the prime minister said the people lined up on both sides of the road at the towns of Mullapur and Jagraon and several villages en route the 52-km-long journey from Jalwara Airport in Ludhiana District to Thuduke village. Our correspondent says the tremendous response to the first ever visit of Mr. Chandra Shekhar to the interior of Punjab generated goodwill and confidence among the people who came out in large numbers to greet him.

The BJP leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has said that most parties have a common approach on the Punjab issue and are pressing the government to find a solution to it. Talking to newsmen at Village Thuduke, he said the government should not be afraid of talking to anyone whosoever comes foward and if convinced that a solution to the Punjab problem can be found through negotiations.

Sikh Leaders Urge Militants To Meet Government

BK2101161491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Ten prominent Sikh citizens have strongly appealed to the militants in Punjab to positively respond to the prime minister's initiative and enter into a meaningful dialogue with the government. In a resolution in New Delhi today, the members of the Sikh forum led by Lieutenant General J.S. Arora welcomed the prime minister's invitation to militants for talks. The resolution said Mr. Chandra Shekhar's step is in a positive direction and reflects his earnestness for an early and just solution to the Punjab problem.

Punjab Bans Printing 'Objectionable Material'

BK2601162291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The Punjab government has imposed a blanket ban on printing objectionable material in the wake of publication of a spate of statements of various militant outfits in some newspapers. The order empowers the police to raid and seize any publication carrying such objectionable material.

Curfew Imposed in Ghaziabad After Demonstrations

BK2701031791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, an indefinite curfew has been clamped in some localities under Kotwali police station area in Ghaziabad following clashes between two groups

and incidents of arson and brickbatting yesterday. Earlier, tension prevailed in Ghaziabad after clashes over taking out of a procession and burning the effigy of the U.S. president, Mr. George Bush. The police had to resort to lathi [baton] charge to disperse the violent mob. Agency reports say one person was killed and other 20 injured in the violent incident.

However, unofficial sources say four people were killed and 50 injured.

Iran

President Praises IRNA on Gulf Reporting

LD2901111391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Mr. Nasiri, the director general of IRNA. At this meeting the IRNA director presented a report on the work of the country's mass media, and particularly IRNA's dynamism in reporting the facts as well as its comprehensive and unbiased coverage of the recent events in the region. He added: This coverage attracted the attention of a major part of the world's mass media, and its impact was greatest on the mass media of those countries which have adopted a neutral and philanthropic stance on the Persian Gulf war.

Analyzing the region's circumstances, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Reporting the facts to the country and the world with consideration for the subtleties is a serious necessity. The round-the-clock efforts of the country's mass media, and particularly IRNA, in this connection are praiseworthy.

The president added: The coverage of the recent events by the country's mass media was very successful; and IRNA, in view of its vast field of coverage and timeliness, enjoys a particular place in both quality and quantity.

Karrubi Seeks End of War in 'Interest of Islam'

LD2901124291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Mr. Mehdi Karrubi, the speaker of the Majles, chaired today's open session of the Islamic Majles and, in the course of his remarks, congratulated all the world's Muslims on the occasion of the eve of the joyful birthday [30 January] of the lord of the faithful, the holy Imam Ali, God's peace be upon him. He expressed the hope that the world's Muslims may achieve their sacred and valuable goals by following the objectives of that holy imam—the first star of velayat and imamat [guardianship and leadership]—by emulating his life, which was full of resistance, self-sacrifice, and piety.

The speaker of the Majles, pointing to the critical situation in the Persian Gulf, said: In these fragile and fateful times, the fire of war has been lit in the world of Islam and the Persian Gulf region, and we hope that, through God's assistance and the wisdom of the officials and Muslims, specifically those of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the war may end as soon as possible in the interest of Islam. Mr. Karrubi called on the Islamic ummah [community] and the Muslim nations to uproot the occupying Zionists through unity, harmony, solidarity, and relentless resistance. [passage omitted]

Moqtada'i Warns Allies on 'Damaging War'

LD2901114391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] The State Supreme Court of Justice Public Commission met this morning, chaired by Mr. Moqtada'i, president of the State Supreme Court. In this meeting, Mr. Moqtada'i, while offering congratulations on the auspicious birthday of the lord of the believers, His Holiness 'Ali, peace be upon him, expressed the hope that the life-style of that great imam, particularly his method of judgment, would become an example for all the judges to follow.

The president of the State Supreme Court, analyzing the outcome of Iraq's destructive aggression against Kuwait and the aggression against Iraq of the multinational force led by the United States, reiterated the strong hatred and disgust felt by the Muslim and freedom-loving nations of the world toward the U.S. President and actions of the multinational forces in bombing Iraq's residential and commercial centers, which is contrary to the Security Council resolution. Mr. Moqtada'i added: In view of the Islamic Republic of Iran's peace-seeking intentions, we warn them against continuing this damaging war.

According to a Central News Unit report, in conclusion of this meeting, judgment was made on three cases, on which there was difference of opinion between the law courts and branches of the State Supreme Court of Justice.

More Iraqi Aircraft Enter Airspace, Four Land

Planes To Be 'Confiscated'

LD2801163291 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] More Iraqi planes have entered Iran's airspace, and four of them landed at one of the country's airports. According to a report by the Central News Unit, a military source announced that yesterday and today six military and civilian aircraft appeared in Iran's airspace. Each time Air Force fighters of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran immediately scrambled. This military source added that in the course of entering Iranian airspace, two of these planes crashed. One of them crashed near Bakhtaran, killing the pilot, and there is no information available on the fate of the other plane that crashed.

According to the Central News Unit report, the Secretariat of the Supreme National Security Council—which confirmed the entry of six Iraqi military and civilian aircraft yesterday and today and the landing of four of them at an Iranian airport—announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran stresses that Iranian airspace is unsecure and dangerous for aircraft of the warring parties, and warns that if any of the warring parties' planes lands in Iranian territory, it will be confiscated until the end of the war.

UN Envoy Comments

NC2901080691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, permananent representative to the United Nations, by unidentified reporter; date not given—recorded]

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's position on emergency landings by Iraqi civilian and military planes at some of our country's airports was conveyed to the UN secretary general. Our colleague spoke to Mr. Kharrazi, the permanent UN representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the telephone. Here is the conversation:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] We heard that Your Excellency met with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. Could you give us details of the topics discussed in this meeting?

[Kharrazi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: I met with Mr. Perez de Cuellar and informed him about Iraqi airplanes' making emergency landings in Iranian territory. I told him that these airplanes will remain impounded until the end of the war. They will return to Iraq only after the war, when the crisis is over. He was informed of the protest the Islamic Republic of Iran lodged in this regard with the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Tehran.

[Reporter] Mr. Kharrazi, please tell us what was the focus of discussion at the UN Security Council in its latest session on the regional war.

[Kharrazi] The UN Security Council held another session on the Persian Gulf crisis. It was an unofficial session behind closed doors attended by the Security Council members. The multinational forces had presented the Security Council with a report on the war. Some of the members of the Security Council proposed that an open session be convened to discuss the war, but, even after discussions, no such decision was made. Finally, it was decided that on Thursday that an unofficial session should be held to resume discussion of the issue. In this manner, efforts are being made to postpone the official session. Therefore, we will have to wait and see what the result of Thursday's session will be.

[Reporter] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Mass Production of Long-Range Missiles Planned

LD2901115491 Tehran IRNA in English 1101 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA—Iran is to start mass production of long-range ground-to-ground missiles as of Monday, Februray 4, announced spokesman of the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics, Hojjat ol-Eslam Alawi here Tuesday.

Hojatt ol-Eslam Alawi said the missiles which have high destructive power would be mass produced by the military industries of the Defence Ministry.

Red Crescent Counts 'Over 1,000' Iraqi Refugees

LD2301161391 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—Over 1,000 Iraq-based expatriates who crossed into Iran to escape the Western bombardment, have been lodged in make-shift camps in provinces bordering Iraq, the secetary-general of the Red Crescent Society (RCS) said today.

"We have announced our readiness to help refugees and civilians wounded in the war on humanitarian grounds and in response to a request from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)," Veifullah Vahid Dastjerdi [name as received] told reporters.

He noted that the Islamic Republic had anticipated the influx of refugees from Kuwait and Iraq in case of a war, and to cope with the situation, it set up special headquarters in some western border provinces.

Several guest houses, each with a capacity to house 5,000 people have been set up in Ahvaz, Susangerd, Shush, Dezful, Shushtar, and Masjed-e Soleyman, all in southern Iran, he said.

Moreover, he added, several other camps in Khorramshahr, Khosravi, Qasr-e-Shirin, Sar Pol Zahab, Sonqor, Baneh, Saqqez and Marivan areas close to the Iraqi border have been made ready for the purpose.

Of the refugees who entered Iran over the past three days, Dastjerdi said that 600 were housed in makeshift camps in Khosravi and Qasr-e-Shirin, and 400 others were staying in Iran temporarily until they return to their respective countries.

He said an ICRC-chartered plane laden with a field hospital and its equipment arrived in Iran Monday and another planeload of medicines sent by ICRC was due here soon.

15 Arrive in Khosrawi Camp

LD2901090491 Tehran IRNA in English 0739 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Bakhtaran, Jan. 29, IRNA—A group of fifteen foreigners fled Iraq and arrived in Iran through the Khosrawi border point, in this western province, Monday.

They have been provided temporary shelter at a refugee camp in Khosrawi.

UNHCR Praises Handling

LD2801154491 Tehran IRNA in English 1342 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Bakhtaran, Jan. 28, IRNA—Service rendered by Iran to foreigners crossing over from neighbouring Iraq, was lauded by the Tehran bureau chief of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Monday.

He was also hopeful that international bodies would help the Islamic Republic admit more Iraq-based expatriates who might enter the country because of the war.

The UNCHR bureau chief also inspected guest-houses located along the Iraqi border, accompanied by other Tehran-based experts of the UNHCR, the World Food programme, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund.

As a humanitarian gesture, the Islamic republic has waived visas for foreigners fleeing to Iran for Iraq.

Syria's Khaddam Says Israeli Response 'Unlikely'

LD2301152591 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—Syria's Vice-President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam today thought it unlikely that the Zionist regime would reply to Iraqi attacks.

He told IRNA that "war with Israel will occur only when the entirety of the Iraqi Army is fighting at our side against the Zionist enemy. For the moment Iraq is pre-occupied with Kuwait."

Khaddam, who arrived here this morning, said his government would pay due attention to any development in connection with the region, and added that Syria and Iran agree on the need for respecting and protecting Iraq's territorial integrity.

"We will stand against anything which should work against the territorial integrity of Iraq or against the unity of the Iraqis," said the Syrian official.

Asked to comment on the purpose of his visit to Tehran, he said he is here to review the Persian Gulf situation with the Iranian officials as well as participate in a high Iran-Syria commission which convenes on a periodical basis in Tehran and Damascus.

First deputy president of Iran Hassan Habibi who was present in the interview, said Iran opposes the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq but that at the same time it "will not tolerate the presence in the Persian Gulf of the foreign forces".

Velayati Terms Jordan Talks 'Constructive'

Embassies To Reopen

LD2801160991 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said on Monday that the Persian Gulf crisis brought in changes to the region such as the resumption of Iran's diplomatic ties with Jordan, Tunisia and Mauritania.

Before seeing off his Jordanian counterpart Tahir al-Masri, Velayati told reporters at Mehrabad international airport that the political reforms of the Amman government and the election of Muslim candidates to Jordan's parliament last year, had paved the way for renewal of ties between the two countries.

Terming talks with al-Masri as "constructive", he said the two countries shared "close or identical views" on many issues. Contacts are likely to increase in future and bilateral cooperation would expand in the cultural and economic fields, he added.

Velayati also said that the Iranian Embassy in Amman is to reopen with the next two weeks.

Al-Masri called his visit to Tehran "fruitful" and said his talks with Iranian authorities served to draw a bright prospect for Tehran-Amman relations and mutual political cooperation.

He said the two Muslim countries would cooperate at regional and international levels.

Denouncing attacks by the U.S.-West European axis on holy Islamic cities, the Jordanian foreign minister urged world Muslims not to allow Islamic lands to be invaded and desecrated by Western forces.

During his two-day stay, al-Masri, the first Jordanian foreign minister to arrive here since the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979, met with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi and his opposite number Velayati.

Al-Masri's visit followed on the heels of the resumption of Tehran-Amman diplomatic relations severed in 1981. The Jordanian Embassy in Tehran is to reopen soon.

Al-Masri Praises Cooperation

NC2801191391 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Speaking to reporters at Mehrabad International Airport where he had gone to see off Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said that the Iranian Embassy in Amman will open within two weeks while the Jordanian Embassy in Tehran will open in the near future.

Velayati added that Jordan is a confrontation state that is home to many Palestinians. He went on to say that the

political reforms of the Jordanian Government and the election of Muslim deputies in the Jordanian parliament had contributed significantly to the rapprochement between the two countries and the strengthening of their relations.

Velayati said Iran and Jordan share close or identical views on several issues.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri also made a statement to our correspondent at the airport on the outcome of his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said:

[Begin al-Masri recording] My visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran was fruitful, useful, and successful. I had the honor of meeting their excellencies the president and the Majlis speaker today. Yesterday and today I held intensive, in-depth, and very useful talks with my brother and colleague Dr. Velayati. I believe that with this visit and these talks we have opened many new and wide vistas for bilateral relations and for political cooperation on all topics, especially the current crisis in the region. I believe that this cooperation will continue and will have a positive impact on events on the regional, Islamic, and international levels. [end recording]

Iraq Said Seeking To Involve Republic in War

LD2801214791 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Yesterday the radio of the Islamic Republic, quoting the spokesman of the National Security Council, reported that seven Iraqi jet-fighters entered the airspace of Iran on Saturday morning [26 January]. The pilots of these jets requested permission to make an emergency landing in Iranian territory and Iranian jets escorted them to airbases inside the country.

The Iraqi regime announced in a military communique that several of its aircraft were forced to make emergency landings in Iran and contacts are being made to arrange for their return. The reason behind the entry of Iraqi planes into Iranian airspace is not yet clear. It does not look as if Iraqi pilots were deserting the Iraqi Army to ask for asylum in Iran. Over the past few days there have apparently been other occasions when Iraqi aircraft entered Iran's airspace, possibly to land in our country's territory. There is the possibility that Iraqi jets could have entered Iranian territory because they were trying to avoid engaging the aircraft of the multinational forces and were fleeing because they were being pursued by them. But this does not rule out the possibility that the Iraqi aircraft may have entered Iranian airspace deliberately and under the instructions of the Iraqi regime with the intention of provoking and undermining Iran's neutrality, thus dragging our country into the war.

There is no doubt that Iraq would like to involve the Islamic Republic in the war. The Iraqi regime is not unaware of the possibilities of drawing the Islamic Republic into the war on the side of Iraq, bearing in mind that the stances of some the elements within the government of the Islamic Republic toward the war and spirit of the Hezbollahis. Iraq has even openly announced this desire on its part.

Early last week, the Iraqi regime openly invited the Islamic Republic to enter the war alongside Iraq against the United States. Among the supporters of the Islamic Republic are quite a number who support this Iraqi call. If there is another occasion like the one yesterday, this time with the aircraft of the multinational force pursuing Iraqi jets into Iran's airspace, then instead of following Iran's neutral stance, some Hezbollahi may fire at the western planes so that our people and our country may be dragged into the disaster. Iran has warned the Iraqi regime about such potential scenarios, and it is alert to the possibilities of such dangerous incidents aimed at violating Iran's neutrality. Our country is neutral in the Persian Gulf war and the belligerents are dutybound to honor this neutrality. Iraq's request that its pilots and planes be returned is not correct. These pilots and planes can only be returned to their own countries [as heard] after the end of the war. The same thing should be done with regard to the aircraft of the multinational forces in the event they enter Iran's airspace.

Paper Denounces UN 'Silence' on U.S. 'Crimes'

LD2801134291 Tehran IRNA in English 1259 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—If the United Nations wants to prove that it really exists, it must strive to put an end to the crimes that the U.S. and its Western allies are committing against the people of Iraq under the mask of civilisation, said a Persian daily Monday.

JOMHURI ISLAMI in an editorial said that the United Nations has once again been put to the test in the face of the Persian Gulf war.

The paper deplored the international body for its "deadly silence" vis-a-vis the crimes of the U.S. and its allies which it said proved the inefficiency of the U.N. and that "it is only a tool in the hands of the U.S. and its allies."

Pointing to the efforts made by the West to cover up its crimes and deviate the public opinion, the daily said contrary to their conception, reports on their unrestrained brutalities and aggressions under the pretext of eliminating agression have been published.

It deplored the "disgraceful silence" of the European and American reporters who witnessed these horrible crimes against civilians in Iraq who were targets of missile and air attacks by the U.S.-led forces.

Criticising American television networks, the daily regretted that they overlooked the massacre of so many people but screened scenes about sea birds annoyed by the oil slick in the Persian Gulf.

Therefore, the daily said, Muslim nations have the right to question George Bush and his "criminal allies" as to why they are bent on destroying all the potentials and resources of a Muslim country and massacre its people under the pretext of liberating a small state under occupation.

"If the U.S. and its allies have received the warrant from the U.N. for resorting to force to bring Kuwait out of Iraqi occupation, this does not mean that they have been granted permission to slaughter the Iraqi people and destroy all their wealth."

Stressing that the United Nations has not permitted President Bush to massacre civilians, it said the very authority given by the U.N. to the U.S. and its criminal allies is under question and is not legal.

Pointing to the "open violations" of the U.S.-led forces in the course of the 12-day war, the paper warned Washington and allies against the consequences and said the should beware the public wrath throughout the Islamic world.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

King Distressed at War; Meets New Ambassadors

BK1901010691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1955 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 18 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal expressed distress Friday at the outbreak of a war in the Gulf and said peace was still possible if Iraq withdraws from Kuwait.

"We are deeply distressed at the unfortunate outbreak of hostilities between Iraq ... and the United States," he said.

Meanwhile, the king accepted the credentials of the ambassadors of Thailand and India in separate functions at the Narayanhity Royal Palace, state radio said.

On accepting Thai Ambassador Sathawira Suwanathat, King Birendra said the two countries share many common values and "hold similar views on many international issues, particularly on the question of peace."

Accepting the credentials of Indian Ambassador Bimal Prasad, the king said: "Nepal and India have enjoyed a traditionally warm relationship characterised by good neighbourliness and goodwill."

Mr. Prasad replied that "India and Nepal are legitimately proud of their separate political as well as cultural identity. Between them there are no barriers of any kind—physical, social or cultural.

"In recent months our two countries have started afresh on a path full of new possibilities for the future," he said.

'Largest' Political Party Holds Congress

BK2001013291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1835 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 19 (AFP)—The country's largest political party, the Nepali Congress, drew 3,000 delegates nationwide Saturday for the start of a three-day national conference, party sources said. More than 25,000 observers, party supporters and Kathmandu-based foreign diplomats attended at the opening ceremony at Nepal's national stadidum.

The conference was held openly for the first time in 30 years since the dissolution of the country's one-party system last year.

Delegates were to elect officers and adopt an election code, a senior party spokesman said.

"The younger generaltion of the pro-demcratic party are strongly campaigning to get elected in the Central Working Committee...in place of the older generation," a party source said.

Southern Party Says Seat Allotment Unfair

BK2001142691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1327 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 20 (AFP)—With elections three months off, the chairman of the Nepal Sadbhabana Party (Nepal Goodwill Party) has alleged that the allotment of seats for the House of Representatives is discriminatory.

Gajendra Narayan Singh told a meeting in Kalyanpur, 260 kilometers (160 miles) southeast of Kathmandu, that 83 seats in the 205-seat house have been allocated for Nepal's low-lying tropical region, where 8.5 million people live.

The remaing 122 seats have been set aside for other areas that are home to a total of 9.5 million people, Mr. Singh said, asking how such an arrangement could be called democratic.

"Those in power have compelled the people of the tropical region to choose a path of struggle," he said. "The coming struggle will indeed be waged in the interest of the exploited and ignored communities."

The allocation of seats was made under Nepal's new Constitution declared by King Birendra on November 9. Elections are due to take place in the last week of April.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Reviews Gulf Peace Mission

BK2801165991 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has expressed optimism about convening an ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] meeting in Islamabad so as to

bring the ummah [Islamic community] on a single platform to find a solution of the Gulf crisis. He was addressing a news conference in Islamabad this evening after his visit to six Islamic countries—Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. He said it was his effort to mobilize and organize the combined might of the Muslim world for putting an end to the war.

The prime minister said it is a difficult job in the present circumstances keeping in view the fact that the initiative of the Nonaligned Movement has run into difficulties at the very outset. So have the efforts of Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. He said he had gone on his peace mission with goodwill and has come back full of great expectations. His efforts are not yet over and he would continue contacts with other Islamic countries. His mission is to save the ummah from the ravages of war and destruction. He spoke of his talks with King Husayn of Jordan and he said he is trying to establish contact with President Saddam Husayn.

The prime minister said our sympathies are with the Iraqi people who are suffering because of the war. Even if Iraq agreed to announce withdrawal of its troops from Kuwait, he said, Pakistan would try its best to persuade the rest of the Muslim world to agree to a cease-fire. He said the countries he visited fully agree with Pakistan that the territorial frontiers of Iraq should not be disturbed. Mr. Nawaz Sharif said the heads of state and government he met were in complete agreement that sovereignty and independence of Kuwait must be restored.

Answering a question, the prime minister said King Husayn informed him that he himself had not been able to contact President Saddam for the last few days. Mr. Nawaz Sharif said he was ready to go to Iraq any moment and meet the Iraqi leader for the sake of peace.

The prime minister said when he was in Turkey the Indian prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, contacted him to know more about his peace mission. He asked the Indian prime minister to try to contact President Saddam Husayn, but his reply was also was that he had not been able to do so for the last few days.

In reply to a question, he said his mission related to collective welfare of the ummah because the destruction of cities, be they in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait or Iraq, was the loss of the entire ummah.

The prime minister said that Pakistan's policy on the Gulf is based on principles. Our troops in Saudi Arabia are there to defend Haramain Sharifain [the two holy places] and they are positioned inside Saudi Arabia. They are not part of any offensive position.

Answering another question, he said they had made it clear that Israel must not involve itself in the war and this has been conveyed to the United States. If Israel attacks Iraq we will be certainly with the rest of the Muslim ummah. He said the IJI [Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad] leadership is meeting tomorrow to decide whether to hold a round table conference of political leaders over the Gulf crisis. He pointed out that now there is an elected parliament, and the National Assembly is going to discuss the Gulf situation. Mr. Nawaz Sharif emphasized that there should be no misunderstanding over the government's policy on the Gulf. He said Pakistan wanted an end to the bloodshed of innocent people.

About reports that after Iraq Pakistan would be the next target for having nuclear facilities, the prime minister said Pakistan knows how to defend itself and is fully capable of doing so.

Army Chief Discusses Iran Gulf Position

BK2801130891 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] The chief of the Army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, has expressed his grave concern at the Gulf War which is badly eroding unity of the Muslims. Addressing the officers of the general headquarters in the Rawalpindi Garrison this morning, he said that an expansion of war would have devastating political, military, and economic effect on the entire region. The Army chief expressed the hope that concerted and united effort would be made to find an expeditious, negotiated, and peaceful solution of the Gulf crisis. He said that the entire civilized world has joined the war against Iraq without having first tried the option for seeking peaceful solution. No doubt, Iraq is guilty of aggression against Kuwait, but he said, in his view, more time should have been given to it to realize the pitfalls of its own mistake. General Beg said in his view Iran holds a key to a negotiated settlement of the Gulf War because of its important and unique position in the region. All efforts in this respect must be made in cooperation with Iran to get Iraqi aggression vacated from Kuwait with simultaneous pullout of foreign forces from Saudi Arabia.

Talking about the anxiety at home about the Gulf War, he said it was quite understandable as these were expressions of our deep religious sentiments. There is a threat to our holy places in Mecca Mukarramah and Medina Munawwarah and sacred shrines in Iraq. Gen Mirza Aslam Beg said that while vast resources were being employed to liberate Kuwait, it was now logical [word indistinct] adopt a similar approach to liberate Kashmir and Palestine. Dialogue and negotiations are the key settlement for permanent peace and prosperity. [sentence as heard] He said we have a longstanding issue of Kashmir, for which we have fought three futile wars. Now the people of Kashmir have risen on their own to determine the course of their destiny, and now it is time that this issue is settled through dialogue for the greater good of the people of this region.

Beg Concerned Gulf War Eroding Muslim Unity

BK2801162191 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Excerpts] General Mirza Aslam Beg, chief of the Army staff, has expressed his grave concern at the Gulf war, which he says is badly eroding the unity of the Muslims. Addressing the officers of the general headquarters in the Rawalpindi Garrison today, he expressed the hope that a concerted and united effort would be made to find an expeditious and peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, as an escalated and prolonged war will have devastating political, military, and economic effects on the entire region. Gen. Beg said the causes of the Gulf war may be found in the Arab-Israeli disputes in 1948, 1956, and 1967. He said that the new move is primarily aimed at politically incapacitating the countries that cannot be defeated militarily and to sow the seed of discord among other countries by engaging them in fighting. [passage omitted]

The army chief said that it is a matter of great satisfaction that our national government, by displaying political realism, is trying to create consensus and coordination on the issues arising out of the Gulf war. He reaffirmed that the political government, which is completely representative, had established political stability in the country, and the armed forces, which is fully capable of dealing with a war, has lessened the threats to national integrity. Therefore, it is imperative to allow the elected government all the opportunities to freely deliberate on the issue and seek ways to deal with it. He warned that any attempt to seek a solution to problems by resorting to the politics of marches and demonstrations will impair national interests. [passage omitted]

State To Produce Modern Weapons, Ammunition

BK2801164591 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Pakistan has successfully entered into the production of modern weapons and ammunition and over the past four years a lot of impetus has been added to indigenous production of these arms and ammunition. According to defense official sources, a number of modern weapon systems and a variety of ammunition are being produced. The country has [word indistinct] from the stage of imports and assembly to a phased production of new weapons and ammunition. It is set to start manufacturing its own main battle tank, Kaled, with indigenous capability and Chinese collaboration. Apart from other weapon systems and ammunition, defense production yards have also succeded in producing night vision devices.

Three Die in Firing on Pro-Iraq Demonstration

BK2501170891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1655 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 25 (AFP)—At least three people were killed and seven injured when para-military guards fired on a violent crowd during a pro-Iraq demonstration in Pakistan's tribal area Friday, official sources said.

Unofficial reports said four people died and 15 were wounded in the incident at the main town of Khar in the Bajaur tribal agency which borders Afghanistan.

The shooting occurred after hundreds of tribesmen gathered early Friday to demonstrate in support of Iraq and then threatened to storm the jail after midday prayers to release several people detained Thursday in connection with another pro-Iraq rally.

The crowd staged a sit-in outside the jail and started throwing stones at the guards who opened fire, the sources said, adding the crowd fled but the situation remained tense.

About six tribesmen, including Maulana Roohullah, a tribal religious leader, were arrested Thursday after thousands of people from the Mahmand and Baujauri tribes rallied at Navagai to support Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, they said.

The semi-autonomous tribal belt has witnessed an upsurge of support for Iraq among the Pathan tribesmen who regard Mr. Husayn as a Moslem hero, residents said.

Large or small pro-Iraq demonstrations, a daily occurrence since the outbreak of the gulf war, continued in cities across Pakistan Friday, reports said.

The rallies condemned the attacks on Iraq by the U.S.-led coalition forces, demanding an immmediate halt to the bombings and the withdrawal of Pakistani troops stationed in Saudi Arabia, the reports said.

Addressing 1,000 people in Rawalpindi, near the capital Islamabad, the chief of the fundamentalist Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUP), Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, said more than 100,000 volunteers were ready to leave for Iraq.

He demanded the government permit the volunteers to take part in the "holy war against the United States and Zionists."

Describing the Saudi Arabian rulers as "agents of Zionism," the JUP leader called for the Organization of Islamic Conference to take over management of the Moslem holy sites at Mecca and Medina.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed, president of another fundamentalist party, the Jamaat-e-Islami, said at a separate rally in Rawalpindi that the U.S. wanted to "usurp" Arab oil wealth and perpetuate "Israeli dominance" in the region.

Asking the Pakistan Government to revise its Gulf policy which was "out of step with the popular sentiment," Mr. Ahmed called for the dismissal of Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, dubbing him a "U.S. henchman."

The Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Shaykh Yusuf al-Motabbakani, said in a statement published Friday that the war "is of Saddam Husayn's making and no one else is responsible for the calamity."

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has sincere affection for our brothers in Iraq who are now paying a high price for what the ruler of Iraq has perpetrated," the ambassador said.

The Saudi envoy said hundreds of thousands of Pakistanis had conveyed their support for the Kingdom and volunteered their services to defend its holy sites.

For his part, Iraqi Ambassador Isma'il Hamudi Husayn told THE MUSLIM newspaper that half a million Pakistanis had volunteered to fight alongside Iraqi forces.

The Iraqi diplomat opposed peace initiatives by countries that have deployed troops in Saudi Arabia.

Praising the "neutrality" of Jordan, Yemen and Iran, he said "we are very happy over the Iranian policy."

Futher on JUP Statement

BK2701004991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1714 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, Jan 26 (AFP)—An influential religious and political leader, Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, said Saturday he had amassed 200,000 volunteers to fight alongside Iraq against U.S.-led forces in the Gulf.

Mr. Noorani, whose Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan (JUP) is known for its pro-Iraqi stance, had launched a campaign to recruit volunteers prior to the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf on January 17.

He also demanded the expulsion of U.S. Ambassador Robert Oakley to demonstrate Pakistan's indignation over Washington's policy in the region.

Addressing a large public rally after leading a march in support of President Saddam Husayn, Mr. Noorani said the JUP had 200,000 volunteers who were waiting for government permission to leave for Iraq.

Islamabad, which has deployed more than 10,000 Pakistani troops in Saudi Arabia, has opposed the idea of sending "mercenaries" to Iraq.

Pakistan has condemned Iraq's annexation of Kuwait and backed the United Nations resolutions to force Iraq out the tiny emirate.

Apparently embarrassed by increasing pro-Iraqi feelings in this predominantly Sunni Molsem state, the local administration has reportedly stopped the printing and sale of large size portraits of President Husayn.

"Pakistan should support President Saddam Husayn," Mr. Noorani told the Lahore crowd, saying the Iraqi leader was not merely defending his nation but was "fighting for the entire Moslem world."

"We should go hand in hand with President Husayn's efforts towards liberation of Jerusalem" from Israel, he added.

The pro-Iraqi politician, whose party has pockets of influence in Sindh and Punjab provinces, strongly criticised Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, holding him responsible for "massing Christian and Jew troops" in the kingdom.

Mr. Noorani also lashed out at Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's current peace mission to the Gulf countries, calling it an attempt "to win favour of Americans."

Mr. Sharif was reportedly in Saudi Arabia on Saturday after holding talks with leaders in Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan and Egypt on ending the war.

He is seeking a peaceful solution to the conflict based on Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait under the aegis of the 45-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Meanwhile, Minister for Rural Development Maulana Abdus Sattar Niazi said Pakistan would "resist" if Israel attacked Iraq, the official APP [Associated Press of Pakistan] news agency reported.

"The Gulf war is heading toward a world war," he said, adding that "Saddam Husayn will be held responsible for the catastrophe."

Pakistan is keeping a strict watch on the situation, he said.

PPP Demands Recall of Troops From Gulf

BK2601074391 Hong Kong AFP in English 0702 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Karachi, Jan 26 (AFP)—Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's political party has strongly denounced the allied attack on Iraq and demanded the recall of Pakistan's 10,000 soldiers from Saudi Arabia.

In a resolution adopted Friday, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) said U.S.-led forces in the Gulf had become "military agents of Israel," and demanded that Pakistan "immediately withdraw its troops from the theatre of war and bring them back home."

"The use of brutal inhuman and unprecedented high-tech force by allied forces against Iraq is illegal, without sanction of international law and must be stopped immediately, unilaterally and without conditions," it said.

The PPP added that it would continue its nationwide protests, which it said were "keeping in view the aspirations of the people of Pakistan."

The meeting was chaired by Begum Nusrat Bhutto, the mother of the former prime minister. Ms. Bhutto, who was ousted from power in August, now is visiting the United States.

Operation Desert Storm caused large pro-Iraqi protests in Pakistan and some portions of the ruling coalition led by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called for him to revise his Gulf policy.

Bhutto's Husband Arraigned for Mass Murder

BK2901094191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Karachi, Jan 29 (AFP)—Police have arraigned former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's husband and 12 other partymen for the alleged murder of their political opponents soon after her ouster from government in August, officials said here Tuesday.

The charges have been filed before a special judge, Nabi Sher Junejo, who normally conducts speedy trials of terrorism cases.

Apart from Ms. Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari, who is already on trial on charges of abduction for ransom, the accused include Syed Qaim Ali Shah, former chief minister of Sindh province, former Health Minister Amir Hyder Kazmi, Ms. Bhutto's bodyguard Munawwar Suhrawardy, Mr. Zardari's bodyguard Ghulam Rabbani and other Pakistan People's Party (PPP) activists.

They are charged that, unprovoked, they opened fire on camps of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) in Karachi on August 22, which left about two dozen people dead.

The MQM had opposed Ms. Bhutto's government during her 20-month rule, until August 2. It later joined the coalition government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

One of the accused, Razi Haider Jaffery, was produced before the court Monday and was remanded in judicial custody by the judge.

The court directed the prosecution to produce Mr. Zardari next week and also issued non-bailable warrants against Mr. Shah and the other accused.

Mr. Shah is the president of the provincial wing of the PPP.

Sri Lanka

India Cooperation Talks Establish Commissions

BK2901120191 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1014 GMT 29 Jan 91

["OANA/Pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 29 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—Agreement on joint oil exploration in Mannar in north-western Sri Lanka and a declaration by India to lift its restrictions on the import of primary products including tea may form part of the package of 'understandings' that would emerge Wednesday [30 January] when Indian External Affairs Minister V.C. Shukla calls on President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

This morning's hour long one-to-one talks Mr. Shukla had with Foreign Minister Harold Herath and the two and a half hour talks between the two delegations had produced the basis for a wide ranging agreement, Indian Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey said.

We have reached understanding in many matters, he said. Mr. Shukla is calling on President Ranasinghe Premadasa Wednesday.

Mr. Dubey said both delegations were agreed in upgrading the joint economic commission and in upgrading the economic and trade relations between Sri Lanka and India.

"The whole gamut of topics concerning bilateral relations were covered during the talks", Mr. Dubey said and added that regional and international concerns too were discussed.

On bilateral issues the ethnic problem and the refugee problem were discussed in detail. On the ethnic issue Sri Lanka briefed the Indian delegation on recent developments and about the all party conference. The Indian side on its part had commented on them, Mr. Dubey said.

He said the formula worked [out] by the Tamil and Muslim parties for the solution of the ethnic problem was discussed and the question of the devolution package and its refinement and additions were also discussed.

He said the question of Tamil refugees in India was also discussed and India had indicated the need to create the conditions necessary for return of the refugees. Both countries have decided to work together, Mr. Dubey said. On the number of refugees there was no agreement.

He said Sri Lanka had expressed satisfaction at the steps India had taken to prevent Tamil militants from using the Indian soil.

Asked whether the current military operations were discussed the Indian foreign secretary replied in the negative.

Both sides discussed the Gulf crisis in detail and decided to keep each other informed of peace moves.

They also discussed the impact of the current global changes on the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation].

Mr. Shukla, who arrived in Colombo on Monday evening, calls on ministers Ranjan Wijeratne and A.C.S. Hameed and former President J. R. Jayewardene today. He will call on President Ranasinghe Premadasa, Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge, Speaker M.H. Mohamed,

opposition leader Sirima Bandaranaike, and Minister S. Thondaman. He leaves for China on Thursday.

State of Emergency Extended for Another Month

BK2601113491 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Parliament last night adopted a motion to extend the state of emergency by a further month by a majority of 59 votes. Hundred and sixteen members voted in favor of the motion, while 57 cast negative votes. Members of the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party], MEP [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna], USA [United Socialist Alliance], and TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] opposed the motion, while SLMP [Sri Lanka Mahajana Party] and independent members were not present during voting.

The minister of plantaton industries and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, winding up the debate said that it would be possible to remove the emergency regulations in all the provinces with the exception of the northeast once the Security Act is amended. Discussions in this regard will be held next week.

Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne announced that government has given permission for meetings and picketings but demonstrations could not be allowed in the present circumstances. The minister said that operations in the northern and eastern provinces were proceeding according to schedule. He added that it was not the government's intention to continue the emergency regulation. On the contrary, the government wanted to remove the emergency as soon as possible.

Buddhist Monk, Tamil Youth Caught With Heroin

BK2701111791 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0920 GMT 27 Jan 91

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 27 (LANKAPUVATH)—Two young men, one of them described by police as a student Buddhist monk and the other a Tamil, are being detained by the Police Narcotics Bureau after being allegedly caught attempting to smuggle two kilos of heroin into the country. The detection was made by customs at the Colombo International Airport, Katunayake, last night. The Police Narcotics Bureau told LANKAPUVATH that the heroin worth four million rupees locally had been found in the false bottom of the monk's suitcase. They said preliminary investigations revealed that the monk who was from a temple at Maradana in Colombo and the Tamil youth, both aged about 24 years, were friends. The two had gone to Madras and had allegedly brought the heroin from there on the return journey.

Council Says Colombo Drug Transit Center

BK2101121391 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0751 GMT 21 Jan 91

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 21 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Colombo Plan Council in its latest annual report released today states that Colombo has been identified as a convenient transit point for international drug trafficking. The report also states that Sri Lanka's commercial centre is also the hub of distribution of narcotics for the whole country.

Meanwhile a spokesman for the Police Narcotics Bureau [PNB] told LANKAPUVATH that 317 cases of possession, and sale of heroin, including smuggling, had been detected last year and 351 suspects arrested for heroin related offences. Among the foreigners arrested smuggling heroin were four Nigerians, one of them a woman, with 34 kilograms of heroin in their possession. The narctotics bureau also arrested eight narco terrorists in 1990 with a total of 12 kilograms in their possession. He said a total of 54 kilograms of heroin with an international street value of 1.68 million US dollars had been seized in 1990. Narcotics bureau statistics show that 11 cases of cannabis had also been detected. The total of 54 kilograms seized in 1990 was the highest by the PNB since its inception, the spokesman said. The local street value of a kilogram of heroin ranges from five to six lakhs of rupees. The spokesman said that 23 kilograms of heroin had been seized by the narcotics bureau unit at Colombo International Airport, Katunayake.

LTTE Logistics Director Captured by Police

BK2601093491 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0753 GMT 26 Jan 91

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 26 (LANKAPUVATH)—Mano Master, director of logistics and training of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was captured by the police at Kurunegala, capital of the North Western Province, official sources told LANKAPUVATH. They said Mano Master was hiding in a safehouse at the time of his arrest.

LTTE Mannar Area Leader Dawood Killed

BK2701104491 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0949 GMT 27 Jan 91

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 27 (LANKAPUVATH)—An LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader of Mannar 'Captain' Dawood was killed when the double cab vehicle in which he was travelling overturned as it was fired at by an Air Force helicopter saturday. Earlier, on Friday the 'director' of logistics and training of the LTTE was apprehended in the North Western Province capital

of Kurunegala. The Air Force also bombed and destroyed two major LTTE bases at Mullativu, killing 25 terrorists and exploding a fuel dump on Friday and Saturday.

Air Force Destroys 'Very Large' LTTE Base

BK2701092491 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0758 GMT 27 Jan 91

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 27 (LANKAPUVATH)—Twenty Five LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were killed and a fuel dump destroyed when the Air Force bombed a major LTTE stronghold in the northern jungle infested district of Mullaitivu, Friday and Saturday. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the LTTE base was spotted by a helicopter on a reconnaisance flight. They said flames as high as 2000 feet shot up into the skies as Air Force planes bombed the fuel dump and the LTTE camp situated in the same complex near Thannimuruppu tank in south west Mullativu, Saturday. The base was described as being very large and half a square mile in extent. On Friday, Air Force planes successfully bombed and destroyed a heavily fortified LTTE camp at Nayaru, also in Mullaitivu and killing 25 LTTE terrorists. Meanwhile, an LTTE terrorist was killed at Maviddipuram, Jaffna, by army sniper fire. A laundryman was reported shot dead by unidentified gunmen and his brother abducted, at Veeranayagapuram in the eastern Amparai District. Official sources said the victim was W. Kandaswamy.